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The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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NEW NARK FOTOS; COP VIOLENCE; POST OFFICE-- AND MORE

POST AMERIKAN

AUGUST 1976
VOL. 5 NO. 4

Bloomington-Normal

25c

LET'S CELEBRATE 1976 WITH THE GUMPS!

WELL, MIN, I'M OFF TO HELP BRING BACK TRUE EQUALITY AND A REAL DEMOCRATIC DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS AND OPPORTUNITY—DON'T WAIT UP—I'LL BE BACK SOON AS THE BIG BUSINESS POWER-MONGERS ARE HOISTED ON THEIR PETARDS!

IF THIS CHINLESS CLOD THINKS I'M STAYING HOME WHILE HE HAS ALL THE FUN HE'S WRONG!



AND NOW "ONE MAN'S FAMILY" TAKES ON THE MULTI-NATIONAL CONGLOMERATES...

Who Are the GUMPS?

Andy and Minnie Gump, created by Bloomingtonian Sidney Smith, starred in a popular comic strip between 1917 and 1935; it was the first strip to be syndicated and thus distributed more widely. "The Gumps" was an early soap opera strip, dealing with the lives of a "typical" midwestern family and their similarly ordinary friends. While not possessing perhaps the enduring charm of other family strips ("Gasoline Alley" being the prime example), it did set certain standards for realism in the comic strip. Personally, I'd rather see a statue of Andy Gump erected in Bloomington than one more Abe Lincoln.
(BS76)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION
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ABOUT US

Anyone can be a member of the POST staff except maybe Sheriff King. All you have to do is come to the meetings and do one of the many different and exciting tasks necessary for the smooth operation of a paper like this. You start work at nothing per hour, and stay there. Everyone else gets paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at one of our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post-Amerikan has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up here and asking who's in charge.

Anybody who reads this paper can tell the type of stuff we print. All worthwhile material is welcome. We try to choose articles that are timely, relevant, informative, and not available in other local media. We will not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

Most of our material or inspiration for material comes from the community. We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome all stories or tips for stories. Bring stuff to a meeting (the schedule is printed below) or mail it to our office.

MEETINGS

Friday July 16 6:30 pm
Friday July 23 6:30 pm
Friday July 30 6:30 pm
Friday August 6 6:30 pm
Friday August 13 6:30 pm
Wed August 18 6:30 DEADLINE
Saturday & Sun Aug 18 & 19: LAYOUT

These meetings are held at the Post-Amerikan office, and if you'd like to come, call us. The number is 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885, or 828-7986.

You can make bread hawking the Post--15¢ a copy, except for the first 50 copies on which you make only 10¢ a copy. Call 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be mailed to: The Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.

OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under the Sun, 188 W. Main
Peoria: That Other Place, 901 NE Adams
Springfield: Spoon River Book Co-op, 407 E. Adams
Pontiac: Semmens Drug, 123 Madison St.

NORMAL

University Liquors, 706 W. Beaufort
Welcome Inn (in front)
Redbird IGA
Divinyl Madness Records, 115 North Street
Mother Murphy's, 111 1/2 North Street
Ram, 101 Broadway Mall
Al's Pipe Shop, 101 Broadway Mall
Hendren's Grocery, 301 W. Willow
Co-op Bookstore (in front)
The Gallery (in front)
The Lobby Shop, ISU Student Union
Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU Student Union
Cage, ISU Student Union
Midstate Truck Plaza, Rt. 51 North
Hottle House, 1402 S. Main
SW corner, University and College
Radio Shack, Raab Rd. (in front)
New Age Bookstore, Broadway Mall
Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main
Campus Records, 311 S. Main, Normal

Post Sellers

BLOOMINGTON

The Joint, 415 N. Main
Medusa's Bookstore, 109 W. Front
News Nook, 402 1/2 N. Main
The Book Worm, 310 1/2 N. Main
Gaston's Barber Shop, 202 1/2 N. Center
Sambo's, Washington and U.S. 66
DeVary's Market, 1402 W. Market
Harris' Market, 802 N. Morris
Hickory Pit, 920 W. Washington
Biasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main
Discount Den, 207 N. Main
U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market
U-I Grocery, 608 S. Lee
Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland Ave.
Bus Depot, 523 N. East
Park Store, 909 S. Allin
Nierstheimer's Drug Store, 1302 N. Main
Pantagraph Building, in front of it
Eddy's Market, Washington & Allin
Bi-Rite, 203 E. Locust
Mandingo's, 312 S. Lee
K-Mart, at parking lot exit
The Blue Room, 803 Morrissey Drive
Dairy Queen, Main & Miller Sts.

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SINGLES FACE MULTIPLE HASSLES

I AM A PERSON!
DO NOT FOLD,
BEND, STAPLE
OR MUTILATE
ME IN ANY
WAY!!

There are at least 43 million people in this country who are single.

Not all of those people want to get married.

All of those people are discriminated against.

As a single, you probably pay more taxes, and you have difficulty getting credit, insurance, job promotions, and even decent seating in a restaurant.

To be single is considered unhealthy in a society that thrives on couples. You must be dependent on someone else in order to be happy. Is it possible to be dependent on yourself alone without finding discrimination facing you almost everywhere you turn?

Most of society will say it isn't possible, and as a result, many singles lose a lot of their freedom because they feel compelled to obey societal mores. We are up against a wall, and it's time to fight back.

There are two types of "marriage", legal and living together. Singles are up against both. To say you don't want a mate must mean you're selfish, unfeminine or unmasculine, cold, unemotional, or incomplete as a person.

Singles, because of the society we live in, tend to believe all the myths surrounding singlehood. We tend to think we're missing something, especially when we're with married people.

It's pretty hard to deal with the emotional aspects of being single in this society because we tend to need love, the warmth of someone's company, sex, and friendship, and marriage is promoted as the ultimate fulfillment in life.

Historically, marriage may have been necessary for economic and physical survival. Today, there is no longer a need to pair up for life in order to help society survive. Babies will be born whether

they have permanent fathers or not. Work is done by groups of people instead of by family units.

Because of moral standards fashioned under other conditions centuries ago, the nuclear family today tends to lock in each of the members. Heterosexual marriage for men meets needs for care, comfort, and ordered domesticity (wife as replacement for mother) but for women it only helps to destroy self-identity--we become one of the children in the family, provided for and protected by the husband.

Our need for a one-to-one emotional involvement is probably as socially conditioned as our need for hamburgers and Coca-Cola. Dr. David Reuben in his book *Any Woman Can*, says every woman can find love and sexual fulfillment but only if she is married. Unmarried women are "carefree little girls who don't want to be grown up women".

Although we are pushed from childhood into the search for the "one-and-only," it just doesn't always happen that way. We must learn that we have the full and final responsibility over our individual lives.

Here are some of the concrete hassles singles face:

TAXES--Generally, singles are taxed more than married folks. Being single normally means you have no dependents, so you can't get too many exemptions. Married people can split the family income, so per person, they pay less to the government. One cure for this is to find a dependent, or find someone who'd be willing to file a joint return with you. Watch out for IRS.

JOBS--It's hard to get promotions since singles are considered unstable. When filling out your application for a job, try listing your present

address as the place you've lived for the last five years. And don't tell your employer about your future plans for leaving town and getting back to the earth.

CREDIT--You are considered less financially responsible if you're single (especially females). If you are discriminated against in this area, it is illegal, especially if you're female. The only thing I can suggest is contacting the Bloomington or Normal Human Relations Office and asking them what to do.

HOUSING--No pets, no children, no singles. Couples preferred. Singles supposedly are highly unreliable and will stay up all night having wild parties, keeping neighbors awake, and bringing in a different mate every night. The best way to overcome housing discrimination is by providing references from past landlords to prove you're a good tenant. If that doesn't help, try another apartment because Human Relations won't help you here. They have no provisions for discrimination against singles in housing and employment.

INSURANCE--Young married people pay lower premiums--especially for auto insurance--than do unmarried young people. Divorced people are considered an insurance risk because they are "emotionally unstable." Also, unmarried couples are considered less stable, more irresponsible and more likely to bolt town than marrieds. If you find one insurance company lacking your qualifications, let them know how you feel and find another one that charges less.

MISCELLANEOUS--Single people normally buy single serving packaged foods, which cost more but won't spoil. Hotel rates are proportionally more expensive for singles. We can't go into a fancy restaurant and get a table out in the open because the head waiter wants to hide us. Single women with children have to pay for day care (all women with children face this problem really.) And who knows what else is pushed at us.

We must learn to appreciate ourselves as people, rather than classifying ourselves as single or married, and others need to accept people as they are, not as they're supposed to be. Society has always demanded that certain types of people remain in the closet. The time has come for all of us to come out.

WRITER'S NOTE: My apology to those couples who do not try to force singles into another state. There are a few of you around who believe in non-oppression of all people. Only a few.



Freeway Threatens Farmland

American history is an ancient, timeless process. Peoples have lived on North and South America for thousands of years, intelligently and in harmony with Nature. These are facts.

Both the Supplemental Freeway 412, proposed by Illinois Department (IDOT) for construction beginning in 1977, and the entire supplemental freeway system are highly questionable propositions.

IDOT's "freeway" (think "idiot freeway"-- it describes the logic of road-building policy) would take 100,000 acres of some of the richest farmland in the world out of production forever.

The new freeway would be built either along one of two proposed new routes, or by making U.S. Highway 51 four lanes. IDOT held a public hearing on June 3rd in ISU's Hayden Auditorium to gather views on the proposed freeway alternates.

IDOT started by presenting background information on freeway "issues." IDOT showed slides, maps, comparison charts, presented environmental questions that the project does not raise, and read the government policy for relocating victims of eminent domain. All garbage.

Many spoke in favor of one of the two new freeway routes. Many opposed the whole project.

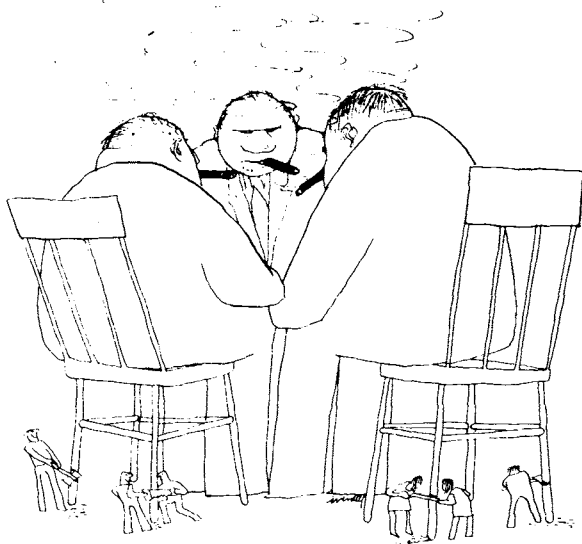
Mark Silverstein of Bloomington spoke first: "I was told that I could speak only about whether one freeway plan or the other was preferable, and that if I wanted to say, 'Don't build it at all,' I was about six years too late."

But Silverstein went ahead and said, "Don't build it." He said that the shortage of food in the world meant we should be thinking of ways to increase food supplies, not pour cement on valuable farmland.

Silverstein also said that we need to develop alternatives to individual transportation, which puts a heavy drain on increasingly short fuel and mineral resources.

"It's just absurd to continue using 2,500 pounds of metal, and the fuel it takes to move 2,500 pounds of metal, just to haul one 150-pound person around the country," Silverstein said.

Leonard Stonier, Minonk, of the Wood-



ford County Board, criticized the validity of the environmental impact study for the freeway. He said, "It does not fully evaluate the effect of such a road on the communities that it crosses." He said that he was in favor of making U.S. Highway 51 four lanes.

The proposed freeway would be built to Interstate highway standards: four lanes of controlled access. Controlled access means cars and trucks only, barring farm vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, etc.

Freeways usually do not have exits for county highways and rural roads unless bureaucrats feel that traffic would be heavy enough to justify building the exits.

When a farmer's land is split by a freeway, s/he may have to travel ridiculous distances to reach fields on the other side of the freeway, since s/he can only cross it where there are bridges. This cheapens the land's value, because buyers know that the farmer cannot afford to keep farming the land across the freeway.

Al Preston, Wenona farmer, said, "I was looking at the farm that my family has lived on for three generations, and I was saddened to think of how the freeway would change my land: it would gut and destroy it as valuable farmland."

Preston said, "We (the farmers) would gladly give them (IDOT) the land if they would upgrade the existing highway (to four lanes) and not ruin our land."

Preston and his son, both big men with a firm commitment to the Preston family's right to maintain a farm on their own land, described after the meeting how IDOT surveyors had lied to them about surveys taken on the Preston farm.

IDOT never let the Prestons know of their plans to steal the land and build a freeway on it. Preston's son (sorry I didn't get the first name) said, "You can't explain to them that you will never be able to grow anything on land that has been used for highways already."

Chuck Willer also testified against construction of the freeway, and favored making U.S. 51 four lanes.

Chuck Willer responded to those who support the freeway on the grounds that it would promote economic growth. "The global energy supply is rapidly being depleted, and the rising cost of gasoline could mean the end of the automobile in ten years."

Willer said that the death of the automobile will affect one of Bloomington-Normal's major industries: automobile insurance.

Willer also said agriculture which is petrochemically-based will face a large crisis.

When supplemental freeway system planning started in 1967, the American economy was enjoying an abundance of high production from the Viet Nam war. The economic realities of 1976 are much different: high unemployment, inflation reduced automobile production, depletion and rising costs of mineral and natural resources, etc.

The factors of today's economy were not considered in either the environmental impact study or in general economic planning for the freeway. A consultant hired by IDOT released a report this spring which recommended scrapping the whole freeway system. Right on!

IDOT said the consultant's study had in no way changed the plans to build the freeway system.

The freeway system, conceived in an expansion-oriented economy, is not consistent with today's "belt-tightening, bullet-munching" economy. The costs would be approximately \$3 million per mile, plus inflation

Robert Saunders, Eureka, said, "The best acres of land have already been taken out of production by our excessive desires to build completely new freeways on 'new' land."

Saunders said that these roads are "delightful for industry," but that communities were bypassed, the roads are inaccessible to residents and community businesses are inaccessible to travelers.

Small community business either slows down markedly or stops entirely as big city corporations get the freeway travelers' business. Saunders said that when freeways come through an area "people are left to shift for themselves."

Saunders said, "The tax load is increased for everyone" when farms are taken out of production. The economic analysis should include how much revenue is lost in taxes that would have been paid by farms for generations to come.

Saunders said, "We need to take a long, hard look at freeway building."

When land that has been productive for thousands of years is taken for roads and thrown away, the "freeway" becomes a freeloader.

The upgrading of U.S. 51, as many propose, is a much more sensible way to deal with increased transportation needs, safety, and formation of proper, intelligent land use policies.

American history is not only 200 years old, not 300, not a thousand years old. Rather than building a whole new road, upgrading U.S. 51, only 50 years old, shows at least some consciousness of the future. This generation would be planning for those who will use and live on this land in the next 50 years.

Technology by itself cannot totally solve the problems that it has caused, but people can decide how to use the land that has been given to us.

The world of grandparents, great-grandparents, and parents is the world we have inherited for the rest of our lives; the decisions we make about land use today will live with us and our descendants forever.

Will the future look at how we write our history in the face of the land and say, "These people were greedy roadbuilders," or, "These were human beings who knew life, and whose vision told them that it was worth keeping for another thousand years"????

This question will have part of its answer within the next year, when freeway decisions are made.

--Todd Tecumseh



Minor Mishap Ends

June 28th was a bad day for Johnny and Sue Anderson. After a minor traffic incident, the Bloomington police who arrived at the accident scene savagely roughed up both of the Andersons, without any cause, and then arrested them, also without cause.

That evening, Johnny, his wife Sue, their son Johnny, and their friend Mark Hays were driving down East Emerson. After Johnny passed a slower car driven by Carlos Miller, Johnny slowed to a normal speed. Miller bumped Johnny's back end and both cars pulled over.

Even though Miller's nudge caused no damage and no injuries, Johnny, assuming the accident was intentional, got mad. Johnny got out, and asked Miller what he thought he was doing.

Miller then kicked Johnny in the chest, leaving Johnny with the first of that night's many bruises. It was the only bruise not inflicted by the police. Sue and Mark, seeing the beginnings of a fight, got out of the Andersons' car and grabbed Johnny.

Mark then pulled Johnny away from Miller's car. Sue restrained Miller, who was trying to get out of his car and at Johnny.

After Miller and Johnny had cooled down a little, Sue and Mark and Johnny went back to the Andersons' car. Sue and Mark tried to get Johnny in the car, but he was still mad and wouldn't do it.

So Mark and Johnny took off on a walk through a cornfield next to the road so that Johnny could get all the way cooled off.

Surprise!

Well, Mark and Johnny walked and talked their way halfway across the field, a point very roughly about 30-50 yards from the street. For at least part of the way, Mark had a reassuring arm across Johnny's shoulder. The next thing anybody saw was a Bloomington cop, officer Rhoda, running up to grab Johnny.

Rhoda and his partner, officer Bagnell, had been sent to what Bagnell describes in the police report as "an accident with a fight in-progress." While Rhoda was running up to Johnny and Mark, Bagnell was wasting gas driving around the cornfield to, in his words, "cut off" Johnny and Mark, who were (supposedly), "running and falling in the corn field."

When Mark and Johnny realized Rhoda was running up to them from behind, they stopped and turned around, but Rhoda just kept right on coming.

Panicked by officer Rhoda's aggressive behavior, Johnny said, "I'll talk, just don't grab me, I'll talk to you."

Rhoda, who says that at this point Johnny "appeared ready to hit me," responded to Johnny in this way: he threw Johnny face-down on the muddy ground, straddled John-

**Officer Rhoda threw Johnny face down
on the muddy ground, straddled him
and twisted his arm back painfully to handcuff him.**

ny and while crouching over him, twisted his arm back painfully and tried to handcuff him.

Officer Rhoda didn't explain.

If he really believed that he was interrupting a fight in-progress, he must have been hallucinating or something.

Johnny kept repeating, "Let me up and I'll talk to you, I haven't done anything, let me up."

Rhoda told Mark to help him handcuff John-

Cast of Characters

CARLOS MILLER: driver who hit the car owned by JOHNNY AND SUE ANDERSON: victims of both an accident and police violence (Sue Anderson is called Daylene in the police report.)

JOHNNY ANDERSON, JR.: son of Johnny and Sue Anderson, a passenger in the car

MARK HAYS: friend of the Andersons, also a passenger

OFFICERS BAGNELL AND RHODA: first police unit sent to the accident scene

OFFICERS BRIENEN AND FARRELL: second police unit sent to the accident scene

CHARLIE: friend of the Andersons and Mark Hays who showed up at the police station.

ny, who was resisting only by holding his arms stiffly. The cop said he could arrest Mark if Mark didn't help. Mark replied, "I can't, he's my friend."

Both officer Bagnell and Sue left their



The Andersons: victims of unrestrained police brutality. (Sue, John, and Johnny Jr.)

cars and ran for the action from opposite sides of the field, when they saw Rhoda throw Johnny to the ground.

"Subduing the Suspect"

Bagnell reached Johnny, officer Rhoda, and Mark first and began to help Rhoda handcuff Johnny. At one point one of the fearless men in blue, who was pushing Johnny's face in the mud, pulled Johnny's hair so tightly and violently that Johnny was able to pull

hollering and cussing, the cops never explained why they were doing what they were. They didn't even ask Johnny or Mark any questions about the car accident or the "fight in-progress" that never happened that they were supposed to be busting up.

Johnny tried to explain what was going on to officers Rhoda and Bagnell, over and over and over, but they just weren't interested.

After Johnny was handcuffed and "subdued," he told Bagnell he wasn't going to run and finally talked Bagnell into letting Rhoda take the handcuffs off.

Carrying a 50-pound child on her hip slowed Sue down, and so did her sandals, which kept sticking in the mud. She tripped and dropped little Johnny several times. About halfway to Johnny and Mark and the police, she fell. So she took off her sandals and ran the rest of the way barefoot.

By the time Sue got to Johnny, he was on his feet, not handcuffed. She gave little Johnny, who was crying and upset, to Mark

and asked Mark to take him back to the car, which Mark did.

Officer Rhoda grabbed Sue and asked her what she wanted. Sue said, "I'm his old lady. I've seen what you've been doing to him, he hasn't done anything."

Once is Not Enough

Officer Rhoda and Sue started hollering and cussing at each other, and Johnny joined in. Rhoda threatened to handcuff Sue if she didn't shut up and go away, and Bagnell threw Johnny down again on the muddy ground, and put the handcuffs back on.

Officers Rhoda and Bagnell then took Sue and Johnny to Bagnell's squad car, parked on the side of the field away from the accident scene. As they walked to the car, Rhoda repeatedly stepped on Sue's bare heels and said, "If you fall, you'll lay there."

The cops drove the car around to the accident site, where two more squad cars, Mark Hays, Carlos Miller (the driver who hit Andersons' car), and several witnesses were gathered. There was more shouting and cursing, and Bagnell told Sue, "You've had it now, chick."

One of the other squad cars contained officers Farrell and Brienen, who threw Sue Anderson roughly against a squad car. Brienen's name you may remember from a letter to the Pantagraph published on July 2.

In that letter, which was in response to

in Police Violence

5

Elizabeth McMahon's pro-abortion, pro-separation of church and state letter, officer Brienens presses for more religion in government. Here is a quote.

"Perhaps if our priests, ministers, and rabbis would become more involved in our social and political problems, we could begin to eliminate things like pornography and help stem the tide of immoral activities in our country."

"Better yet, if the citizens of this country would stop worrying so much about keeping faith and religion out of government and start insisting that it become an integral part of the system, we would be a lot better off."

It's very possible that officer Brienens wrote that letter the same day that he threw Sue Anderson viciously up against the squad door. Her stomach hit the door handle, causing pain for several days.

After Sue tried several times to get out

Officer Rhoda said, "No, I ordered you once, and when you said that you couldn't because Johnny's your friend, I dropped it."

Bagnell also claimed he saw Johnny hit Rhoda. Mark asked Rhoda, "Did Johnny ever hit you?" Rhoda said no.

Johnny was finally charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol and resisting arrest, although nobody's ever said what they could possibly have been arresting him for that he resisted.

The Bitter Aftertaste

When Johnny was bailed out, bruised, in pain, covered with mud, and pulling great wads of loose hair from his head, Charlie

Here is part of the police report, written by officer Bagnell and used as the basis for the Pantagraph story.

"I observed Johnny Anderson start to fight with Officer Rhoda. I left the squad and ran to where Mr. Anderson and Officer Rhoda were wrestling. I helped subdue and handcuff the suspect. At this time, his wife, Daylene Anderson, came up and started yelling and trying to pull Mr. Anderson away. After forcibly getting Johnny and Daylene to the squad car, we went back to the scene of the accident."

Officer Brienens threw Sue Anderson

of the parked squad car in order to give her car keys to Mark and check on her child, Brienens grabbed Sue, mashed the keys into her hand, and then took them away from her. Officer Rhoda then gave the keys to Mark, but Sue was not told this.

All evening, the only things any cop asked Mark in connection with the whole mess were his name and address. Also, the cops immediately assumed that Johnny and Sue were drunk, but gave Mark, who had been out with them, the keys to the Andersons' car and responsibility for little Johnny. Rhoda told Mark to take the Andersons' son somewhere and drive the car back to the police station, which Mark did.

Johnny and Sue were taken to the police station in separate squads. Officer Brienens asked Sue, "Have you ever fallen out of a moving car?" Sue said yes. "If you fall out of this one, you might get run over," Brienens told her.

At the Police Station

Neither Johnny nor Sue was ever officially told that they were under arrest. Sue's rights were never read to her. Johnny had his rights read to him after he got to the police station.

Sue Anderson was charged with disorderly conduct. When Mark returned to the station with the \$25.00 to bail Sue out, another friend, Charlie, was there. Charlie told Mark that they still couldn't get Sue out, because the complaining officer was out eating.

When Mark got upset, the cop at the desk said, "Well, he wouldn't even have had to be late for supper if all this hadn't happened."

The desk cop said he would give Mark a wave as soon as the complaining officer had returned and filled out the papers that were holding up Sue's release.

Mark and Charlie waited an hour. When Mark went back to the desk to apologize for getting angry, the paperwork was already sitting there, all filled out and signed. The desk cop had never given the wave.

About 3 hours after getting to the station, nobody had been told yet what Johnny was even charged with. Mark saw officers Bagnell and Rhoda talking in the hall and went up to ask them what was going on.

Bagnell threatened, "You could still be in trouble, so watch it."

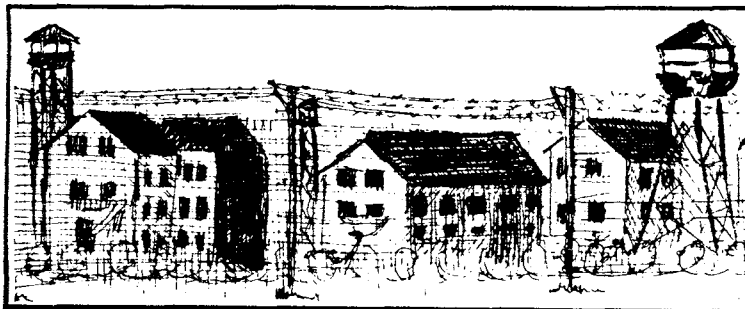
In the course of the conversation, Bagnell said he had heard Rhoda order Mark three times to help handcuff Johnny. Mark asked Rhoda, "Did you order me three times to do that?"

viciously
up against

the squad door. Her stomach hit the door handle.

said he'd never seen any prisoner leave any jail in such bad shape.

Johnny's hand had been hurting a lot while he was at the station. The next day it swelled up and was still sore so he went to the doctor. Sure enough, it had been broken.



Johnny was supposed to start a new job a few days after all this happened. Well, he can't do it with a broken hand and court dates.

At this writing, ten days after the arrests, Johnny's handcuff marks are still clearly visible.

Officer Bagnell is a fool, a liar, or both. Johnny Anderson never fought with Officer Rhoda; Rhoda assaulted Johnny without provocation or resistance.

Anderson and Rhoda never wrestled. The cuffs of Bagnell and Rhoda's pants were barely touched with mud, while Johnny and Sue Anderson were covered with mud, scratched, and bruises.

The "suspect" Bagnell helped "subdue" and handcuff hadn't been charged with anything--because he hasn't done anything.

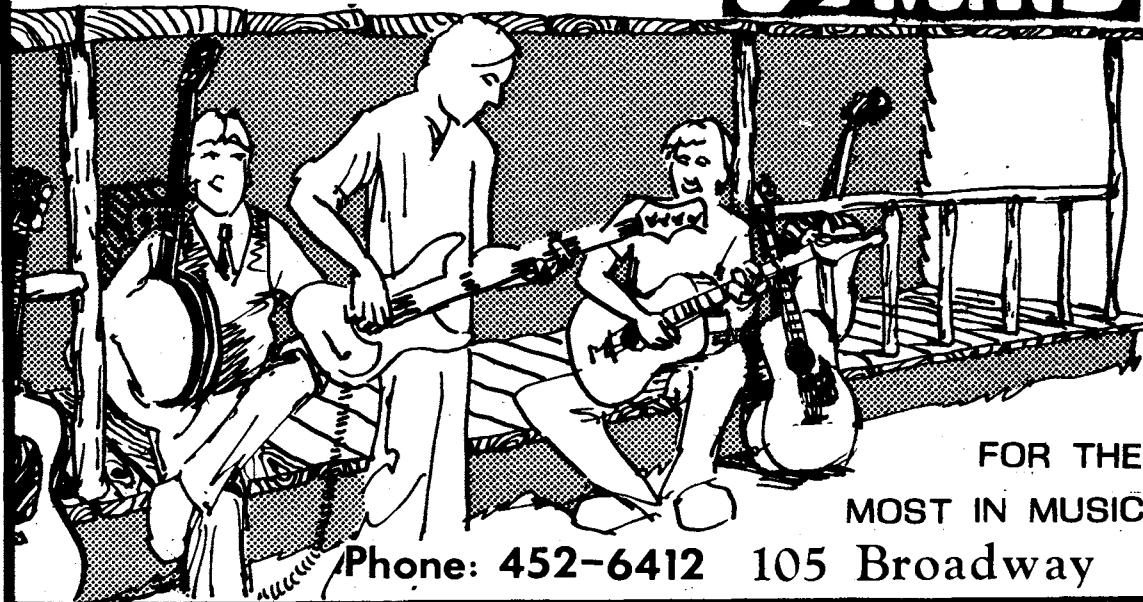
Sue Anderson never tried to pull Johnny Anderson away from the officers in the corn field. While they were all in the corn field, Rhoda never allowed Sue close enough to Johnny even to touch him.

Sue Anderson was yelling--so were Johnny Anderson, Mark Hays, and officers Bagnell and Rhoda.

It may not be true that there's liberty and justice for all, but it sure is true that justice is blind.

50-50 ain't bad--depending on which side of the bars you're on.

Summer guitar & banjo lessons now available!



Phone: 452-6412 105 Broadway

Part I:

Daily Life at the 6 Bloomington Post Office

Almost everyone who works for a big corporate-type business knows that management and labor are constantly fighting. After a while management's harassment of workers and boredom become just normal parts of a worker's day.

Just how lousy our jobs are is forgotten. During work we space out and think about things in the future. Maybe we just look forward to a beer after work.

I worked at the Bloomington Post Office as a 90-day temporary worker. Over 20 other temporary workers and I were laid off as part of postal management's drive to economize. Almost all of us worked the 3-11 shift as clerks.

The May issue of the Post-Amerikan carried a three-page article about the war going on at the Post Office. The article focused on Tom McGill, Director of Mail Processing. McGill is certainly a disaster for the Bloomington Post Office and almost everyone hates him. He is very dangerous, and like supervisor Ball, could at any moment hit some worker in the eye with his fist.

I have talked recently to many regular employees at the Post Office, workers I never seriously talked to when I was 90-day help. The following story is about working conditions as a clerk in the Post Office.

* * * * *

On a typical day a regular Post Office worker punches in at 3 P.M. and immediately reports to Chuck or Larry, the two supervisors. Usually the worker is told to work 3rd class mail, which is mostly junk mail

Clerks at the Post Office sort and process mail. Most letters get from one place to another by means of a mail case. A mail case is made up of about 80 square openings, a little wider than a letter, all in one unit.

One kind of mail case, called a primer, has a box for all the states, plus special cities and zip code areas. A clerk spends most of his or her day in front of a mail case throwing letters into the right hole.

There are several types of mail cases. Outgoing mail goes to one kind of mail case, incoming mail another. Third class letters have their own cases and so do third class flats (magazines, etc.).

The cases are arranged in orderly rows. The whole clerks' area I worked in was about the size of the old downtown Woolworth store. It takes up about 1/5 of the floor space in the main room at the Post Office.

Around 4:30 a worker is pulled from 3rd class mail over to first class. From 4:30 to 9:00 workers deal with the 1st class mail.

Six hours go by before the half hour lunch at 9:00 P.M. At this time the day's 1st class mail is collected and is dispatched out. After lunch, from 9:30 to 11:30, the work is usually the same as before, throwing letters into the right mail case hole.

Although the main activity of a clerk is throwing letters into a mail case, there's all kinds of peripheral or secondary work to be done. These other jobs break the monotonous routine of the mail case.

THE MAIN PROBLEM AT THE POST OFFICE, AS WITH MOST OTHER JOBS, IS THAT WORKERS ARE HUMAN BEINGS CAPABLE OF ALL THE THINGS HUMAN BEINGS CAN DO (i.e. IMAGINE, FEEL, THINK, ECT.) BUT THE WORK IS NOT DESIGNED FOR THE WORKERS. THE WORK IS DESIGNED FOR A CENTRALIZED, BUREAUCRATIC, PRODUCTION-TYPE EFFICIENCY.

Working the set up table is a common diversion from the mail case. The set-up table is the place where all the new letters are organized so that they all face the same way, and so can be cancelled. I've worked the set-up table, and it's like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. It's not a pleasant or stimulating job.

There are other things to be done during the shift. Maybe the supervisor will send you on a collection or ask you to help unload a truck.

While working a mail case, workers can talk to each other. It seemed to me, though, that most of the time workers do not talk to each other, probab-

ly because there's nothing to say, or because most workers just want to get the job done as fast as possible. Also one can walk away from the mail case every once in a while, to get more mail or to empty a slot that's filled with letters.

The daily routine of a clerk at the Post Office is just barely stimulating enough to keep one from going crazy. Many of the younger workers believe that the work really does make you go crazy. They cite as evidence the fact that many workers identify with management and some even want to join management.

I disagree though. I think people want to join management (become a supervisor) because of how they were brought up. People who join management enjoy telling other people what to do.

Working as a clerk in the Post Office is very much like an industrial job. Instead of making things, however, one is processing mail. The workplace is designed by an unknown specialist whose purpose is to make things run efficiently, at the least cost. As with all modern industrial workplaces, standardization and routine characterize the work process.

And as with modern corporate organization, management has total control over the workplace. They decide who does what, where and when. Each job is simplified as much as possible. There's no thinking (just memorization), feeling, or creativity involved in being a clerk. Everything is cold, hard, and organized into an efficient order.

And the funny (or tragic) thing is that almost all postal clerks are very smart people. Many of them have college degrees (whatever that's worth) and a few, I heard, have Ph D's. These people are also very hard-working. The puritan work ethic basically prevails at the Post Office.

I think that the main problem at the Post Office, as with most other jobs, is that the workers are human beings capable of all the things human beings can do (i.e. imagine, feel, think, etc.) but the work is not designed for the workers. The work is designed for a centralized, bureaucratic, production-type efficiency.

And on top of everything else, the whole damn system is organized hierarchically, with orders coming down from the top. No wonder there's a war goin' on. And yet, are things any different at Firestone, G.E., I.S.U., State Farm, or any other corporate-type business in town? No!



LNS/cpf

P.O. MANAGEMENT GETS REVENGE

Six postal workers wrote letters to the Post-Amerikan last issue supporting the 3-page anti-management article printed in the May issue. Only one of those six postal workers signed his real name to the letter.

Within a few days after the paper hit the newsstands, management pulled a heavy-handed but obvious reprisal against that worker.

He soon was assigned to work at a new job, for two thousand dollars less a year. He was demoted from a skilled maintenance position to an unskilled laborer's job. In the technical jargon of the Post Office, he was demoted from a level 6 to a level 4 position.

Management wanted to get this guy so bad that they had to "excess" several other people with less seniority just to get to him. Some of these lower-seniority were even relatively friendly to management in the past.

If management had really legitimately been forced to change this worker's job, they could have given him one of the available level 5 clerk positions. By unnecessarily demoting him all the way down to a level 4 job, management was clearly motivated by revenge.

Workers at the Post Office said that they saw management's move as an attempt at "getting" this worker for signing his name to the letter in the Post.

As a Union steward, the worker filed a grievance. He won. He got to stay in the maintenance craft. But as usual, management's move against workers who resist costs workers extra time and energy researching rules, writing grievances, arguing points.

Managers, who are not penalized for getting reversed on a grievance, just put their feet up on their desks and laugh.

DAY of the TORNADOES

On June 29th, the day Bloomington-Normal had all the tornado activity, the clerks shift was working as usual. The clerks' first indication that something was happening that day were the sirens.

Burke came on the intercom and announced that a tornado had been sighted 3 miles south of the airport and that he would keep the workers informed of its position. No one was told to quit working and take cover in one of the side rooms designated in the event of a tornado.

When civil defence blows the sirens, it doesn't mean be on the look-out or

be prepared to take cover, it means Take Cover!

The postal clerks work in a large, high-ceilinged room, much like Eagle food store. Everyone knows that this kind of room is very dangerous if hit by a tornado.

Yet, postal workers told me that while the sirens were blowing the supervisors and other management types were conspicuously missing from the work area. They were all hiding in the low ceiling, brick-walled side rooms at the Post Office.

In Buhrke's twisted mind it was more important to keep working than for the workers to take cover.

THE POSTAL UNDERGROUND

Just as in any other corporate-type workplace there are a whole lot of things workers do to survive that can't be printed, so that management isn't tipped off. Sorry Tom.

Most of what these small groups do is act as an outlet for workers to speak freely, because you have to be careful, especially when you talk subversively about management. There are many brown noses who might tip management off to how you really feel.

In talking with many employees at the Post Office, I began to see some of the deeper things. There is a sort of underground movement at the Post Office, small groups of workers who very informally help each other survive.

Part II:

MANAGEMENT'S WAR

In the story about what it's like to be a clerk at the Bloomington Post Office, I pointed out several things. The work is boring and not very healthy (mentally). But in spite of a boring, monotonous work routine, the workers are hard-working and very competent.

So how does management treat the workforce? Are they appreciative? Do the supervisors thank the workers for coming in and giving the supervisors ½ of their waking hours so that management's business can operate.

The answer to all the above questions is a resounding NO!

Not only is management not supportive of the workers, but they are now in the midst of an active campaign against the workers.

In the May issue of the Post-Amerikan some of this campaign against the workers was detailed: for example, the harassment of two workers for taking time out for a cigarette. Another form that management's attack takes is threats of transferring workers to other post offices because there's not enough work in Bloomington.

To understand why management is antagonistic and trouble-making, one fact needs to be kept in mind! The Post Office is going broke! Bad management, inflation, and Richard Nixon's conversion of the Postal Service into a privately managed profit business has led to disaster. The response (by management) to this financial crisis has been twofold--cut back service and cut back the workforce.

Everyone I talked to told me that service has gone way downhill in the last six years. Many carriers said that if people knew how bad service has been cut back, people would be outraged. A recent poll showed almost ½ of the American people were dissatisfied with their postal service.

Management has less room to cut back the workforce. The postal workers know they live in a sink-or-swim society and therefore want job security. They demanded and won a no-layoff clause in their current contract. So management has been cutting back the workforce by not hiring new people when someone quits or retires.

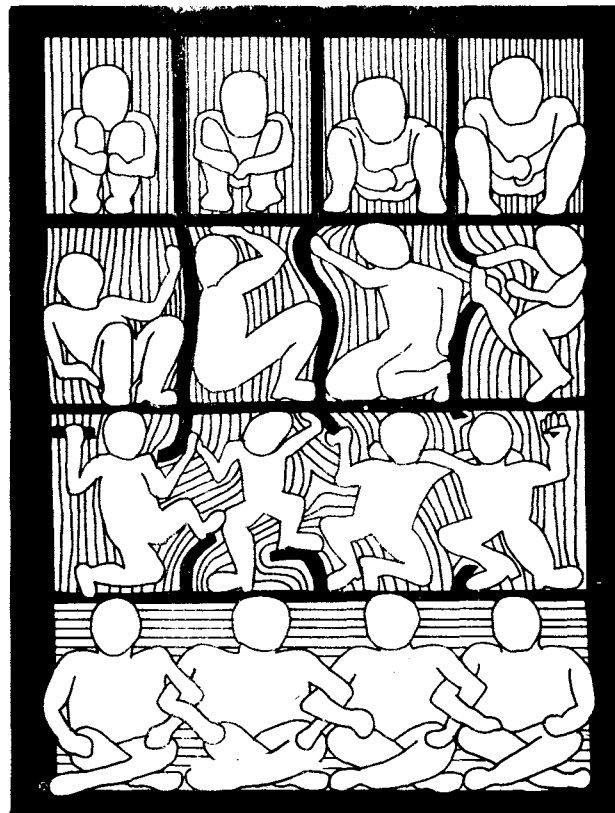
Management's goal is to eliminate 55,000 jobs. Temporary help is non-union, so it was easy to let all of us go. All temporary help, about 25

maining regular workers, about 60 of them, had to then do all their work!

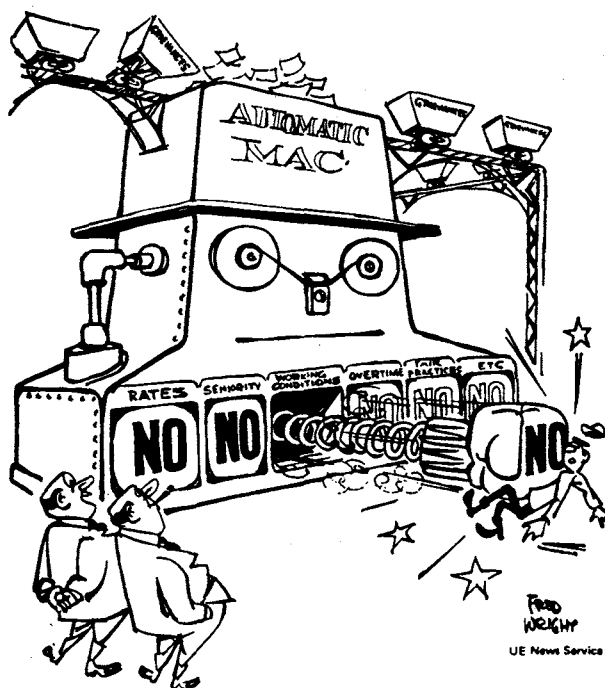
Another tactic used is harassment. That is, Larry or Chuck will just be out for certain clerks and ride them. The object is to make people, has been eliminated at the Bloomington Post Office. About 20 of those temporary employees worked in the clerk section. They were all let go on December 31, 1975, and the re-work miserable (which it already is) and hope they quit. This is a degrading tactic that further reduces people to objects of use and abuse.

I have been told that four clerks have quit recently. Three of them were so-called disciplinary problems at the time they quit. All three were women! Many workers believe that the fact that the fired workers are women accounted for much of their trouble. Management, they say, thinks it is easier to put pressure on and intimidate a woman than it is a man.

Of course all management is men. And I know from working there that management is very sexist.



UE News/cpf



"See how well our automatic grievance machinery works!"

Every day the gulf between management and the workers is widening. For example, when a clerk supervisor was absent, one of the workers would fill in. It was always easy in the past to get someone to fill in because they would get paid the supervisor's high wage. In fact, some workers would jump at the opportunity to supervise.

But now management can't find one clerk to fill in for Larry or Chuck if they are absent. Now that's an example of mental health.

As mentioned in the last Post story, the filing of grievances is at an all-time high. All of last year only 30 grievances were filed for the whole Bloomington Post Office. Recently, in just one 8-hour shift 12 grievances were filed! Ten of those were settled in the workers' favor within the week.

Quite clearly an unfortunate and potentially explosive situation exists at the Bloomington Post Office. I would urge all Post-Amerikan readers to support the postal workers because their struggle, like each of ours, is a fight for survival and dignity. Quite clearly many things need to change, and getting rid of Tom McGill is first on everyone's list.

Health Board to Improve VD Control

In early July, the McLean County Health Board adopted a proposal by E.E. Diddams, executive director of the county health department, to hire an additional person to administer McLean County's VD treatment program. The matter had been open for action since the May 25 Health Board meeting.

From reading the Pantagraph, a person might have the idea that Diddams acted as a result of his meeting with Community for Social Action (CSA) members. However, before CSA members had arrived for the meetings Diddams and the head nurse for the Health Department met with Dean Danner, a State Department of Public Health representative. Danner's boss from Springfield also attended the meeting. When the CSA arrived for the meeting, the decision to hire the additional health department staff member had already been hammered out.

The CSA and many other McLean County residents have known for some time that VD services for the county are insufficient. CSA members told the Post-Amerikan that it was difficult to find individuals with specific complaints about McLean County's VD treatment program, but that the program's weaknesses were obvious.

One problem with VD control and treatment in McLean County centers around the costs of administering treatment. Scott Eatherly, a CSA member, said that VD treatment at clinics is less expensive per person treated than treatment on an individual basis. Individual treatment by a private physician, according to MCHD's head nurse, approached \$22, and emergency room treatment at a hospital costs approached \$40. At Peoria's free VD clinic, treatment costs the clinic only about \$12 per person, Smith said.

The availability of McLean County's VD treatment

program is questionable. Women are discouraged from seeking treatment for VD at the health department. CSA's Eatherly said that treatment costs for women are generally higher, especially for gonorrhea. Ralph Smith told the Post-Amerikan that most of the time, the health department Men have had it no easier. For what appear to be economic reasons, if a man is employed, he will be referred to his physician for treatment. One CSA member said the health department's head nurse "can usually tell by a person's dress" whether the person can afford private treatment.

Ralph Smith explained that in other metropolitan areas in Central Illinois, VD clinics operate either for free or for very small fees. In Peoria, treatment is free and on a "no questions asked" basis. Pekin, Champaign, and Danville have similar operations.

But Diddams held out. Out of approximately 450 cases in McLean County, over half were eventually dealt with by ISU's Rachel Cooper Health Service. But Public Health representative Danner felt that such a total caseload for a county means the approach of a problem requiring more serious-minded remedy. Diddams felt the problem was largely attributable to the "promiscuous" tendencies of the ISU crowd.

CSA did not feel that pushing the problem off in someone else's lap would answer VD treatment needs for McLean County. They asked Dean Danner to speak with their group in April. Danner informed Diddams of the speaking engagement, and only then did Diddams begin to respond.

It seems that if the State feels that a county's VD treatment program is insufficient, then state funds may be withdrawn from the county. A few weeks later, after meeting with the state officials, Diddams asked Danner to write the job description

for the position--"VD epidemiologist."

Additionally, CSA was concerned about the obvious lack of community information about VD. There are handouts about VD made available to the public schools, CSA's Smith said, but these often don't tell you where you can go. At this time, Diddams is supposedly working with WJBC to prepare public service announcements about VD treatment.

As more information on VD treatment in McLean County becomes available the Post-Amerikan will continue to print it.

Jeremy Timmens

Breathing Harder

The Ralston Purina Co. has admitted that breathing grain dust may not be good for you after all.

Last year, Ralston--which has a plant in Bloomington--declared that grain elevator workers who breathe grain dust were actually improving their health because the dust caused them to cough and thus to "clear" their lungs.

But this year the company says it hasn't been able to produce any proof to support the theory.

(information from Wall Street Journal, Pacific Coast edition, May 18, 1976, page 1, column 5)

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Judge Caisley Admits Sentencing Done Behind the Scenes 9

Because Judge William Caisley talks too much, an appellate court reversed the sentence Caisley handed down to Ms. Beatrice Sumner, mother of thrice-convicted murderer Jesse Sumner.

Ms. Sumner was convicted of destroying evidence which could have implicated her son in a murder. She still claims innocence.

During the sentencing hearing in January, 1975, Judge Caisley admitted that he had discussed how to sentence Ms. Sumner with other judges and "other persons in the community," a June 26 Pantagraph story said.

The appellate court chose a relatively narrow legal argument to reverse Caisley's sentencing. By using information obtained outside the hearing, the court said, the judge does not allow the defendant any opportunity to challenge the basis or validity of that information. It's like denying the right of cross-examination.

Neither the court decision nor the Pantagraph article about the decision dealt with other questions raised by Caisley's behavior.

How prevalent is the practice of a judge soliciting "community opinion" about how a case should be dealt with?

And just who is the "community" that a judge talks to when trying to find out whether probation would "lessen the seriousness of the offense"? Are any of these "persons in the community" either poor or black or women? Do any of them have a family in prison?

And how does a judge decide what cases require the advice of these self-appointed behind-the-scenes pseudo-judges?

When Judge Kelly sentenced members of the Twin City Six for their role in the November, 1974, demonstration against Sheriff King, whose decision was it really?

When former Circuit Clerk Marion Bunn was given probation for embezzlement, which behind-the-scenes community leaders were consulted in the judge's decision that probation would not "lessen the seriousness of the offense"?

If someone were convicted of burglarizing a home on Country Club Place, would judges ask these same "persons in the community" whether probation would lessen the seriousness of the offense?

Which advisors to these judges felt that probation for Normal's former Fire Chief (convicted of theft from the city) would not lessen the seriousness of the offense?

Most likely, the pool of "persons in the community" that judges like Caisley draw on to sample "community opinion" is a narrow group of well-to-do white males whose world views ultimately reflect the interests, values, and biases of the people who are personally, economically, and socially powerful in the community.

Such upper- and upper-middle-class biases are reflected in sentences which tend to give a break to someone who has a career, while nailing someone who merely has a job. Similarly, since outright raw violence so alarms the values and temperament of the stuffed-shirt elite, those who steal with pens and paper get a break, while those who steal with direct physical force get nailed.

Sentences for marijuana over the years have become lighter and lighter, reflecting the social nature of the crime. Sentences were uniformly stiff when pot use was relatively confined to a poor black population. As use spreads to the white middle class, sentences go down, and the concept of legalization becomes more widely accepted in ruling circles.

The sentencing behavior of judges is not a reflection of the community's values, as a whole, but a reflection of the values of those in powerful positions.

Judge Caisley is probably not unique among judges for collecting the opinions of "persons in the community" about his cases. Most likely, he is unique in that he was stupid enough to admit, in open court, that he had consulted others about his judicial decisions.

In fact, Caisley has regularly shown a naivete about how his own improprieties and prejudices would be viewed.

In the sixties he openly refused to marry a racially mixed couple. A couple of years ago, his open exuberant campaigning for the Republicans brought a reprimand from higher judicial officials.

Ms. Sumner will now go up for sentencing again, this time with a different judge.

This other judge, no doubt, will also solicit opinions from others about how to handle the cases. But you can bet he won't admit it.

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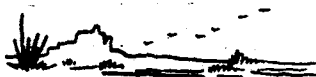
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LETTERS

Prisoner's Story of Hell

I am a prisoner in a modern fascistic "rehabilitation center" for men. My town, which is the prison itself, is over-populated, and lacks jobs for its occupants. Even inside huge, high walls, I find several barbed wire fences that surround anything of importance to our keepers, the administration.

I myself do not live in the part of "town" where people are able to work and look forward to rehabilitation. I live in the punishment building which still sits inside of the prison. Why? I don't like to have ten officers jumping me at once, so I rebelled.

I sit in a cell 10 feet long and 4 feet wide. I can sit on my steel slabbed bed and my knees touch the wall. I have the luxury toilet and a sink. My "house" doesn't cost me much in dollars, but it costs you, for you are paying my rent.

The price I pay is my freedom. I can only leave my house once a week, for five minutes. I have a five minute shower privilege once a week.

Everytime I leave my house, I have to wear handcuffs. My neighbors and I are categorized as dangerous, so every precaution must be used against us.

I am a burglar. I live among murderers. Prison is a school to teach the young more about crime, and how to avoid being caught if there is a next time. And for most, there will be a next time.

I occupy myself by sitting in my house and staring at my barred door, seven days a week, thirty days a month. For some, it is twelve months a year.

We do not have the luxury of hot water. We wash up in cold water.

Almost every day someone curses the officers, or rebels in some way or another. He is then prepared for the worst. He is about to receive an everyday treatment. About ten guards will approach his cell, all armed with tear gas.

This is not just any tear gas, but is a special kind used in Vietnam. One spray affects an area as large as six hundred prison cells. This gas takes all oxygen out of the air for at least an hour. Many prisoners pass out and are carried off to the hospital.

The prisoner who rebelled is then dragged out of his cell and beaten all the way to the box. The box has no bed, just a sink and toilet. The prisoner is given nothing but his food for three days and then released. Sometimes he doesn't even receive his food.

In the meantime, because of one person, a few hundred suffer the gas treatment. You can't honestly imagine it unless you have experienced it.

We receive only small portions of food.

It is common to find dirt or bugs in your chow. At night I sit and watch the mice run around my cell.

I can't describe the loneliness, and boredom on paper. Many people go crazy. People are beaten everyday. It's a sport to our keepers.

It takes a week to see a doctor, a long period of time if in pain. If you ask for something for a cold, you will most likely get something for relaxing muscles.

Is this rehabilitation? Is this what you want to pay taxes for? To produce better criminals?

All this misery makes an inmate want revenge. It makes him worse. That's why 90% of released prisoners return.

I have been in one minimum security prison and can honestly call it a rehabilitation center. Why can't there be more prisons like it?

As long as prisoners are treated as they are, there will always be crime. Prison

is a school for crime. Out of seven Illinois prisons, there are only two minimum security rehabilitation centers. The rest are mad houses.

something has to be done, or the riots in

prisons will continue and worsen. All I can do is let you know what my zoo keepers are doing to inmates of this prison. It's your move.

Mark D. Edwards

Cooksville Cop Chokes Youth

Dear Post:

First of all, let me say how impressed I've been with the terrific paper you're putting out. I'm a fairly new Post-American reader, but the presence of an alternative newspaper in Normal-Bloomington can be nothing but good for the whole community.

Most recently, I've appreciated the exposure of some of the conditions at the Bloomington Post Office. Also, the effort you devote on behalf of the gay community is sure to open peoples' eyes to the fact that gay people are not monsters. The kind of mentality expressed by the Harley Forbes' of the world--"perversion is perversion"--just has to be turned around some day. With the help of people like you, it just might happen! To make racism and sexism and prejudice of any kind things of the past-- that's the dream I have for my children's generation.

Now, to get to something which has been on my mind for a long time, but has come to the forefront just recently. In the sleepy little village of Cooksville, about 20 miles east of Bloomington, there is a "village marshal," appointed by the village board to uphold law and order in this town of about 200 people.

Just a few days ago, my 17-year-old brother was there and "Marshall" Mike Wissmiller didn't like the way he was driving or something, so he followed him out in front of my brother's car to stop him, nearly causing my brother to lose control of his car. "Marshall" Wissmiller proceeded to intimidate my brother (he's very good at this-- he's had lots of practice) by calling him a "dirty little bastard" and telling him that he'd better stay out

of town. He then asked to see my brother's driver's license, and my brother countered by asking to see his badge, telling him that since he had no uniform and drove no official vehicle, he just wanted to see proof that Wissmiller was a law enforcement official. At this point, the "Macho Marshal," enraged at having his authority questioned, grabbed my brother's throat, leaving marks that were still visible three days later.

What really had upset Wissmiller was that my brother had reminded him of an incident of reckless driving that the good lawman had himself committed a few weeks earlier. It seems that Wissmiller and two friends, more than a little drunk, had "accidentally" driven through a Cooksville resident's front yard, pulverizing a couple of garbage cans and bicycles (that small children had been riding just moments before.) This incident was witnessed by several people.

Other examples of Wissmiller's somewhat convoluted ideas about law enforcement could be told by many people, but probably never will be because he's a very big name in Cooksville--the old "big frog in a small pond" syndrome. Not many people want to run the risk of upsetting the Wissmiller dynasty. As is true in so many tiny rural towns, this one family not only owns most of the town, they ARE most of the town! I lived in Cooksville for a few years, and the only good thing about it was that it made leaving so pleasurable!

Again, many thanks to you for giving someone besides the rich and influential a chance to speak out. Keep up the good work!

(Name withheld by request)

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Unsafe Equipment Causes Accident

Ed Brooks, a tower working for Joe's Phillips 66 Service, was recently injured in an accident on the job. He says the cause of this accident was a faulty tower cable on a wrecker, which his employer had refused to fix. Since then his employer has not only refused to agree to giving him compensation, but has also blacklisted him and refused to hire him when he recovers. The following is a Post-Amerikan interview with Ed Brooks.

Post: How did you have the accident?

Brooks: I was driving about two miles north of Towanda, Illinois, on I-55 when the cable snapped, and I was trying to put the truck under control. I tried to do this by putting it in neutral, but it didn't work. I was trying to coast it to a stop, when the car hit the shoulder dirt, after going to the side, and my truck flipped over 3 or 4 times. I was taken to St. Joe's by an ambulance after the accident. I have been on crutches since May 10, and I go to the hospital twice a week for physical therapy on my knee. I have a knot in my back near the tail bone, also.

Post: How did the cable snap?

Brooks: As I was raising the car, I noticed that one of the three strands of the cable was broken. Joe (Pedigo), the manager, accused the drivers of doing it. I know I didn't because I hadn't driven it in the last couple days. I told Pedigo that the cable was dangerous, but he told me to take it anyway. He said they'd fix the cable after I'd towed the car.

Post: How did the manager react to the accident?

Brooks: The state trooper told me it was not my fault, and that Joe should have had the cable fixed before I left. That's why he didn't give me a ticket for the accident. Mr. Costigo, an agent for the American Family Life Insurance Company, the station's company, said I was innocent and deserved compensation. Joe, however, made no effort to pay my hospital bills, or contact me while I was in the hospital. I'm still trying to get worker's compensation. Although Joe promised to rehire me when the accident occurred, he has since blacklisted me and refused to hire me back, telling prospective employers that I am not qualified as a wrecker driver.

Joe never reported the accident to the insurance company, and I had to track down the company myself. He also took my driver's license, but told me he didn't have it. He did not give it back until a week later, after a state trooper told me he had my license.

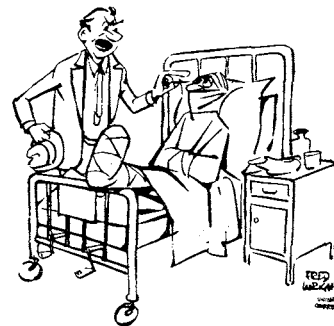
Post: Joe Pedigo says that you were "responsible for the maintenance and told that the day you were hired." Pedigo also said that you had caused a cable to become untwined the second day you were there, and had fixed it yourself. What is your response to this?

Brooks: He is lying. First, he wouldn't let me go out on a truck myself for about a week. The cable was OK until the weekend before the accident. Second, he jumps all over us if we take it to the garage to be fixed. He took care of all repairs.

Post: What are working conditions at Joe's 66 Service like?

Brooks: He scared the hell out of me the way he drove. He told us to drive as fast as we can, but not to get caught. If we get caught, we'll lose our jobs. Although he speeds himself, he fired a driver because he got a speeding ticket for going five miles an hour over the speed limit when he was off work. The manager also likes to chew out employees. One other employee said, "he gets his jollies off by chewing people out." He chewed me out for running a lift wrong, when I hadn't been shown how to run it.

The wreckers aren't kept in good condition. The gas tank on the power start leaked badly; that could have caused a bad fire. The transmission was pretty bad--it would vibrate at 50 m.p.h. In one wrecker, the brakes are real bad. All we have in our wrecker is one CB, which doesn't reach that far. The law also requires that a tow truck in operation must have flashers on, but he once



"You clumsy idiot... On account of you Department Six lost the safety award..."

told me that I had to turn the flashers off. This is dangerous. He also allowed people in a van to be towed while they were still in the van--and threatened to fire me when I said something about it. The cable could have broken or something else could have gone wrong; this is dangerous also. Joe also had made unneeded repairs on cars and overcharged for repairs and services. He normally charges \$8.30 for in-town towing, but they often charge more. Also, Joe tears up the job applications of long-haired people.

Post: What is your current situation?

Brooks: We are about to be evicted from our apartment for not paying rent on a \$150/month plus utilities apartment. I still have not received any compensation. Medicaid has been denied, because we are eligible for general assistance (his family of four would get \$240/month in assistance,) even though our medical bills are over \$3200. Mine are over \$1800 for injuries and my wife owes over \$1400 for childbirth. All I've gotten so far is food stamps and a \$70 grant and \$28 loan from township relief.

POST NOTE: Since the interview, Ed Brooks has received workmen's compensation. However it took seven weeks and five days after the accident for him to receive this. In the meantime, his landlord charged him several dollars a day penalty for not paying rent and threatened him with eviction unless he paid up soon. Insurance (that of his employer) did not pay anything until 9 weeks after the accident.

Plastercraft Creations Is Having A Coupon Special!

SAVE BETWEEN 10% AND 25% ON ALL EXISTING UNPAINTED AND PAINTED MERCHANDISE--WALL PLAQUES, FIGURINES, LAMPS, PLANTERS, SCENIC PLATES, CANDLE HOLDERS, AND STATUES. Also ANTIQUE CROCKERY JUGS AND BOTTLES. (Coupon special does not include most paints and supplies.)

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for discount!**

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Redecorate your home by coordinating with existing furnishings. Save money & time shopping around for that special colored wall plaque or lamp. Paint, wood stain, antique, or chalk with the colors of your choice. Basic instructions are three easy steps. Classes are now being scheduled for pre-schoolers up to golden agers--a pass-time for the entire family. There is no finer gift than a personal hand-finished plaque...for weddings, anni-

**(East Entrance
Old Edwards School)**

versaries, Christmas, or birthday. Give a gift you made yourself...a handmade gift well done is one that can be displayed and treasured for years.

Specializing in ordering over 3,000 wall plaques; featuring: flowers, fruit, children, religion, chinese figures of the ancient world, african tribal figures, musical instruments, animals, western, Mexican, and many, many more.

**Tues. - Sat. 1-5:30
(309) 829-5538**

Mayor Cozy with Businessmen

Now the city of Normal has two task forces to make proposals for the development of Normal: The Economic Development Council and a Downtown Improvement Council. Both councils consist solely of businessmen (not even any businesswomen)--with the exception of one business professor, also male. Mayor Godfrey explained, "We're trying to develop a new approach to downtown. . . We'd like the work generated from within the business community, rather than an outside group putting it together."

Reading between the lines, the statement means this: Godfrey wants only businesspeople on the commission. Although the people who work for the downtown businesses and shop there

everyday are obviously NOT outsiders, Godfrey would totally exclude these people from participation in his commissions. What this means is that although the majority of the people in Bloomington-Normal, including working people, consumers, women, students, blacks, farmers, and the elderly, are directly affected by how THEIR downtown is developed, they will have no voice in the drawing up of the proposals.

Is this how Mayor Godfrey serves all the people of Normal--by letting a few businessmen make the decisions?

Dave Burdette



"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the country that gives me the best deal."

CLASSIFIED

ADS

NEED REPAIRS or maintenance or painting done? I can do light repairs and maintenance, janitorial work, and painting at reasonable rates. Avoid middleman costs and leave a message for Dave B. at the Post-Amerikan, 828-7232

WANTED

Used, small, cozy sofa in good condition, under \$20. Used refrigerator in good working condition, under \$30.

WANT TO SELL

Stereo, Garrard turntable set into Electrophonic AM-FM stereo receiver with 8-track. Speakers are very low quality. With new speakers and minor repair this would be a good stereo. Call Virginia, 827-6784.

12

SOURCE, radical publications collective, needs full-time people dedicated to political change, hard work, and collective lifestyle. Room/board provided. Write box 21066, Washington D.C. 20009.

Betraying the People of Puerto Rico

Rafael Hernandez Colon, the governor of Puerto Rico, recently took out an advertisement which claimed that his fiefdom is a showcase of free enterprise.

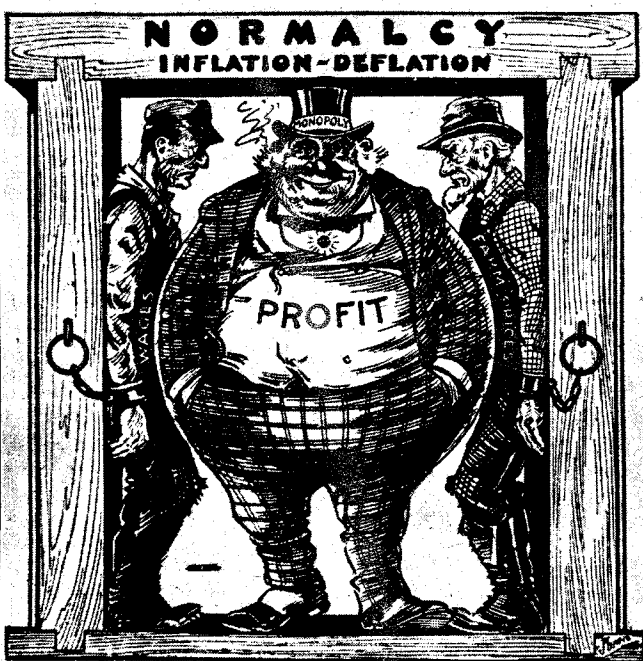
Puerto Rico's a showcase all right, a showcase of U.S. corporate imperialism at work--complete with grinding poverty, racism and cultural genocide.

"Manufacturers will reap additional savings," he says, "through such new programs as pre-employment training and wage rebates of up to 25%." Both paid for by Colon's government out of the pockets of the people.

For the privilege of begging corporations to exploit the Puerto Rican people, Colon's government gave *Fortune* \$9,860--a sum which doesn't include the cost of creating the ad.

And Colon even explains why Puerto Rico has no money to help the poor when he proudly assures businessmen that "total tax exemption for periods of up to 30 years will remain the key incentive" to potential exploiters.

But Colon also dreamed up some new tricks to make Puerto Rico "an attractive site for manufacturers seeking increased profits."

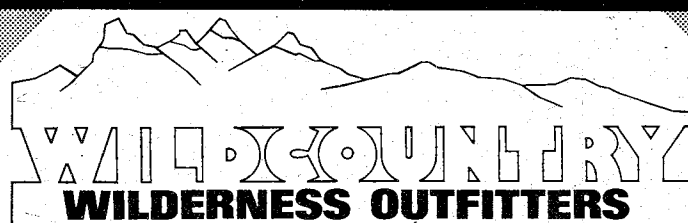


But just to make sure that U.S. corporations are aware of the advantages of starvation wages and of a toady government that blatantly kowtows to business, Colon placed his ad in the May 1976 issue of *Fortune*, the top dog magazine of the business world.

Among the arguments that Colon, the supposed representative of the Puerto Rican people, used to lure new exploiters to the island is the boast that he's reducing government spending--and, therefore, taxes.

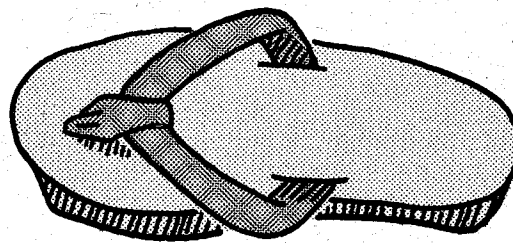
"We adopted a wage freeze for public employees which continues today," he proudly proclaimed. "We trimmed normal operating expenditures and cancelled a number of programs already under way."

All of which means that Colon's government is spending less to help the people.



516 N. Main
Bloomington

Cadillac Sandals



Reg. \$7.50
July Special -
\$6.50

LIFETIME GUARANTEE

Old West Oppression in Normal

13

The Golden West Steak House, 712 Kingsley, Normal, has a split personality.

On one hand, it has the tasteless crudity of "USDA Choice Waitresses" in its phone book advertisement and marquee advertising pitch. On the other hand, all the waitresses, bus-people, and cooks are required to address each other as "Mister", "Sir" or "Miss" (never Ms.)--even if they are friends--to give the restaurant a formal atmosphere.

Talking to Mary Smolenski, a former Golden West waitress, a Post-Amerikan reporter found that this seeming respect for the workers is all on the surface--the "USDA Choice" label more accurately describes how management sees the workers. In a three-day training period (unpaid), waitresses memorize not only standard abbreviations for taking orders, but also the exact wording to use in speaking to customers and to the cooks, and they are not supposed to deviate from this wording.

Ms. Meredith, the manager of the waitresses and bus-people and who also hires and fires them, watches waitresses to ensure official Golden West jargon is used, as well as other standards such as "perky bows" on aprons.

Ms. Smolenski said that more than once, Meredith came up behind her at the busiest time of day and told her to go pull her slip down. Meredith also told waitresses to comb their hair if a few hairs were out of place and insisted that all waitresses wear a Golden West plastic bow in their hair. One waitress was told that her hair was "too bouncy".

No Union

Since restaurant help is not unionized in Illinois, Golden West owners Gerald and Irwin Brauer do not have to stick to certain job descriptions for workers. During the day on Saturday, new waitresses clean the restaurant; bus-people wash windows, cut grass, and paint poles in the parking lot when business is slow.

The lack of a union also keeps wages very low: waitresses made \$1.10 an hour for evening work and \$1.25 for day work when Ms. Smolenski worked there in January to March 1976. One waitress said that since the restaurant is close to the ISU campus, and many students want nearby part-time jobs, Golden West management can fire waitresses on the slightest pretext (for instance, "untamed hair"), and be sure that they can always find replacements.

This security allows management to make all kinds of demands on workers who don't want to lose their jobs. Ms. Smolenski said that one high school woman worked as "corral girl" (sic)--helping with salads, soups, drinks, etc--for two years. When Ms. Meredith discovered that she was going out with one of the bus-people, Meredith told the waitress that she should not see or talk to this man--on or off the job!--because it was a "conflict". Another waitress caught criticism from Ms. Meredith because she didn't make enough tips; a questionable standard for determining a waitress' worth.

Golden West's hiring practices are very questionable. One of Ms. Smolenski's roommates, who has waitress experience, applied for a job six or seven times, and was told that the restaurant

didn't need anyone. In the same time period, Ms. Smolenski applied. She didn't have any waitress experience, but she did wear more fashionable clothing to the interview--and she was hired. She noted that Golden West does not interview women for cook or bus-help positions and does not interview men for waiter positions. Ms. Smolenski also never saw a black worker at Golden West, although she heard that they recently hired a black waitress.

Much 'Loyalty'

Firing practices are no better. In spite of low wages and poor working conditions, Ms. Smolenski says that it's quite clear that restaurant management expects Golden West to have top priority in an employee's life. Ms. Smolenski believes that she was fired because she wasn't dedicated enough to Golden West. She said that she was a good waitress, made good tips, and made fewer mistakes than other waitresses, but she joked around and had fun too. She feels that she lost her job because she lacked a serious attitude.

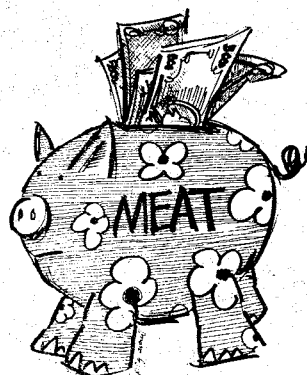
During ISU's spring break, she stayed in town and worked full-time, since she was scheduled to fill in for people who were gone. Little did she know that as soon as break was over, Ms. Meredith would call her in and tell her that "for the good of Golden West, you can no longer be kept on." She protested, saying that if good tips were any indication, Meredith knew she was doing well as a waitress, but she was told

that "waitressing is just not your line of work."

Bloomington Country Club doesn't agree. After losing her job at Golden West, Ms. Smolenski started waitressing at Bloomington Country Club at \$2.80 an hour. She did so well there that in a week, her wages were raised to \$3.20 an hour.

All waitress stories don't have such a happy ending. Waitressing is considered "unskilled" labor, although if you've ever tried it, you know it's not. Bosses often feel that they can impose stricter standards of dress and behavior on waitresses than are imposed on almost any other workers. A factory worker can scowl all day long as long as (s)he gets the work done, but a scowl on a waitress' face means low tips and possible loss of her job. She must always smile and be pleasant, even though she is not fairly rewarded for her work in status, money, or respect from either customers or bosses

--Phoebe Caulfield



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"MATCHED NOWHERE IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS"



Normal Sponsors Bike Trips

The McClean County Bicycle Association offers a variety of trips that are available to bicycle owners and bicycle-owning families.

MCBA is co-sponsored by Normal Parks and Recreation and meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Ash Park Recreation Center.

Dues for joining MCBA are \$2 for individuals and \$4 for families. Riders under 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

MCBA also co-sponsors another ride which originates at Vitesse Cycle Shop, 100 N. Linden, each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

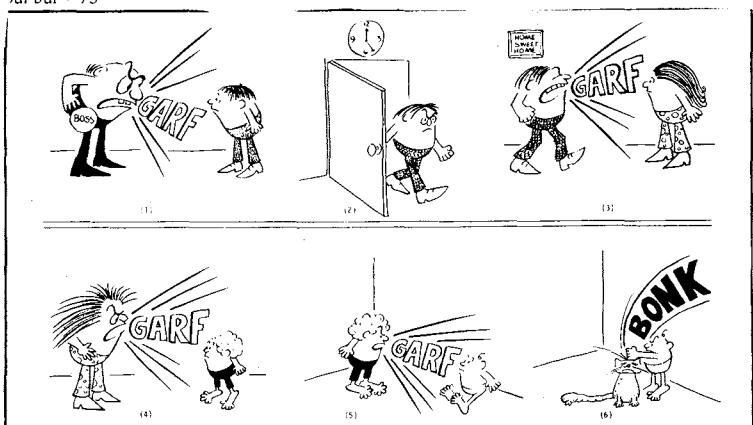
The Vitesse trips are very short, about an hour or two.

Ray Keener, MCBA member and sponsor of the Vitesse trips, says that the organization's purpose is to get bicycle riders together and to help teach safety and better riding techniques.

MCBA rides are longer, ranging anywhere from 10-20 miles to longer tours. The organization also hopes to become active as a lobbying group for legislation concerning bicycling.

For more information on joining MCBA, call 452-1077.

til bil © 73



Summer With Your Dogs and Cats

15

Make sure your animal friends have plenty of shade to rest in these hot summer days. If your dog is chained outside s/he should have some cool shelter from the sun at all times. Animals should also have clean cool water within drinking distance at all times. Remember, non-humans can get heat stroke too, and they've got all that fur. (Food, however, should not be left outside as it will spoil easily.)

You should try to exercise your dog when it is coolest, in the early morning or late evening. Don't forget that on a hot day it can be very dangerous to leave an animal in the car. If you must take her/him with you, park in the shade and leave the windows as open as possible and be sure to check their condition frequently.

Last, but not least, is the summer flea problem. Probably the best thing to do is to brush your dog or cat at least once a week. That way you'll be more in tune with her/him and any problems s/he might have. Keep them clean. Regular bathing in the summer helps my dog. Often dogs scratch because the heat irritates them and then the fleas make it worse. Flea remedies are a bummer, but the best thing to do is stay on top of the situation, using flea powder or shampoo every couple of weeks. Some animals are allergic to flea collars, so be careful if you use one. Aerosol sprays pollute so much that it doesn't seem worth it for you or the animal. I've heard that herb pennyroyal discourages fleas, but I haven't tried it. And if you don't treat her/his sleeping area and your house, all the flea powder in the world won't keep the fleas off.



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This Week's Specials

(July 16-23)

Joint wide rolling papers	14¢
All incense	60¢
Jute single pot hangers	\$3.50
Jute double pot hangers	\$5.50

(Everyday prices)

a touch of class

115 North St.

452-4613

Downtown Normal

Downstairs Divinyl Madness

Store Product List

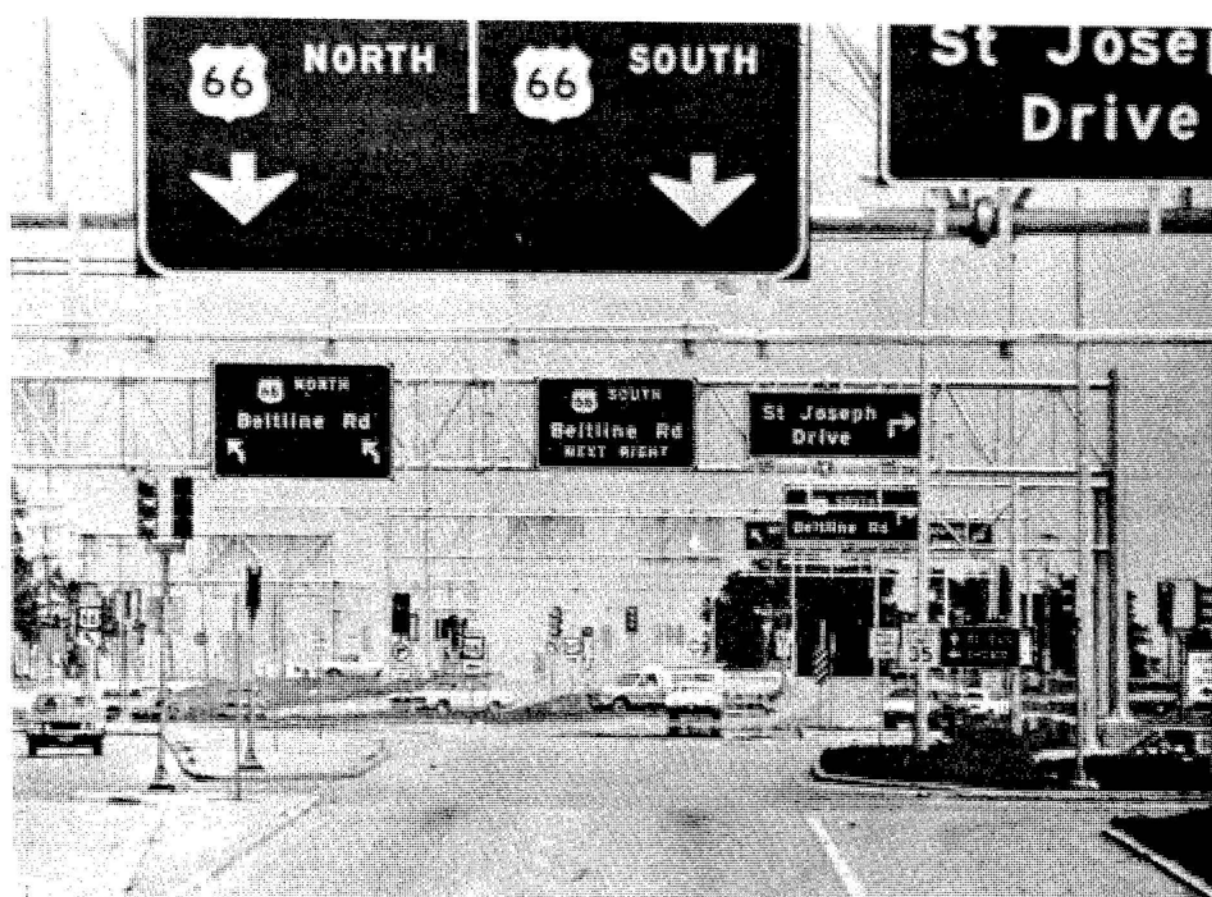
Pipes-Papers-Clips-Bongs-Incense-Macrame and Supplies-Pottery-Baskets-Glass Lampshades-Leather Goods-Onyx and Malachite and Metal Decoratives

Macrame Supplies

10 lbs #5 #4 #3 Jute	\$15.40
5 lbs Tree rope	\$11.40
10 lbs Welt cord 5/32	\$17.40
250 ft 5 ply Jute ball	\$1.54
315 ft 2 ply Jute ball	78¢
155 ft 4 ply Jute ball	78¢

(Everyday prices)

Developers, Planners Plot Pedestrian Deaths



Even in light traffic, motorists at the intersection of Route 9 and US 66 have to constantly look up at dozens of signs, trying to figure out which one applies to them. Then they have to look ahead at dozens of lights, trying to figure out which one to pay attention to. Who has a chance to watch for pedestrians? Yet developers and city planners are getting ready to increase the likelihood of pedestrian traffic at the tangled intersection, with no special safeguards for walkers being planned.

Developers Laurance Hundman's and Sam Holder's current plans to build housing for another 10,000 people on the East side of US 66 at Route 9 are laying the basis for pedestrians getting run over at the tangled, complex highway intersection.

City planning bodies have quarrelled with and suggested revisions of various aspects of these developments. But lot sizes and set-back requirements—never pedestrian safety—have been the sole subjects of public concern.

Planners should wake up and require developers to build a safe pedestrian overpass over US 66, or not build at all. Otherwise, after enough pedestrian accidents occur, the city or state will have to build the overpass, with tax money. Developers will have already made their profits and left.

For cars, the US 66-Route 9 intersection is the most dangerous, convoluted, confusing mess of concrete in town. For pedestrians, who must bob up and down in and out of ditches to cross strip after strip of concrete (not knowing on each strip which way the traffic is going), the intersection is little safer than a military firing range.

In the years since residential development on the Beltline's east side increased the likelihood of such an event, Bloomington has already had one pedestrian killed trying to cross the highway. Occurring at the relatively safer (both in construction and traffic volume) intersection of 66 and Oakland Avenue, that accident took the life of a young woman, and brought serious discussion that the city might build a pedestrian overpass. No one, though, suggested that developers of Broadmoor should absorb some of the cost, even though the need for the overpass is a direct result of their decision to develop land on the East side of US 66.

If city planners act soon, they can force developers to commit themselves to the overpass before one of the 10,000 planned-for new residents gets killed trying to walk or bicycle across the highway.

If they think about it at all, the developers and planners must be assuming that each person wanting to cross the 66-Route 9 intersection will be able to cross in a car. Besides ignoring projected economic and ecological trends which are influencing forward-looking planners in other cities to decrease dependence on the automobile, the everyone-will-have-a-car outlook totally ignores certain special factors which will greatly increase the number of pedestrians walking from this particular new subdivision through this particular intersection.

First, the Hundman development, Lakewood Estates, is intended to be low-cost housing. Out of all possible groups moving into single family housing, the people who must buy low-cost housing are the ones most likely to have no car. In addition, in households organized in the traditional breadwinner/housekeeper pattern, families who must buy low-cost housing are more likely to have one car rather than two, often leaving one member of the household with no car.

Second, the proposed new developments by Hundman and Holder are just about as close as any residential development could be to the major shopping district for a 40-mile radius. If there were no highway in between, it would be clear to anyone that a steady stream of pedestrians could be expected between Eastland, K-Mart, Colonial Plaza, and the nearby (a few blocks) residential subdivision which is home for over 10,000 people. True, the highway will discourage many people from walking. But some people are going to be tempted to try it, especially people with no alternative transportation.

The everyone-will-have-a-car attitude also totally ignores people under 16, who aren't allowed to drive. How do the city planners and developers anticipate that these young people will get out of this subdivision and into the main part of town? Small children on foot are also harder for drivers to see, and thus easier to hit.

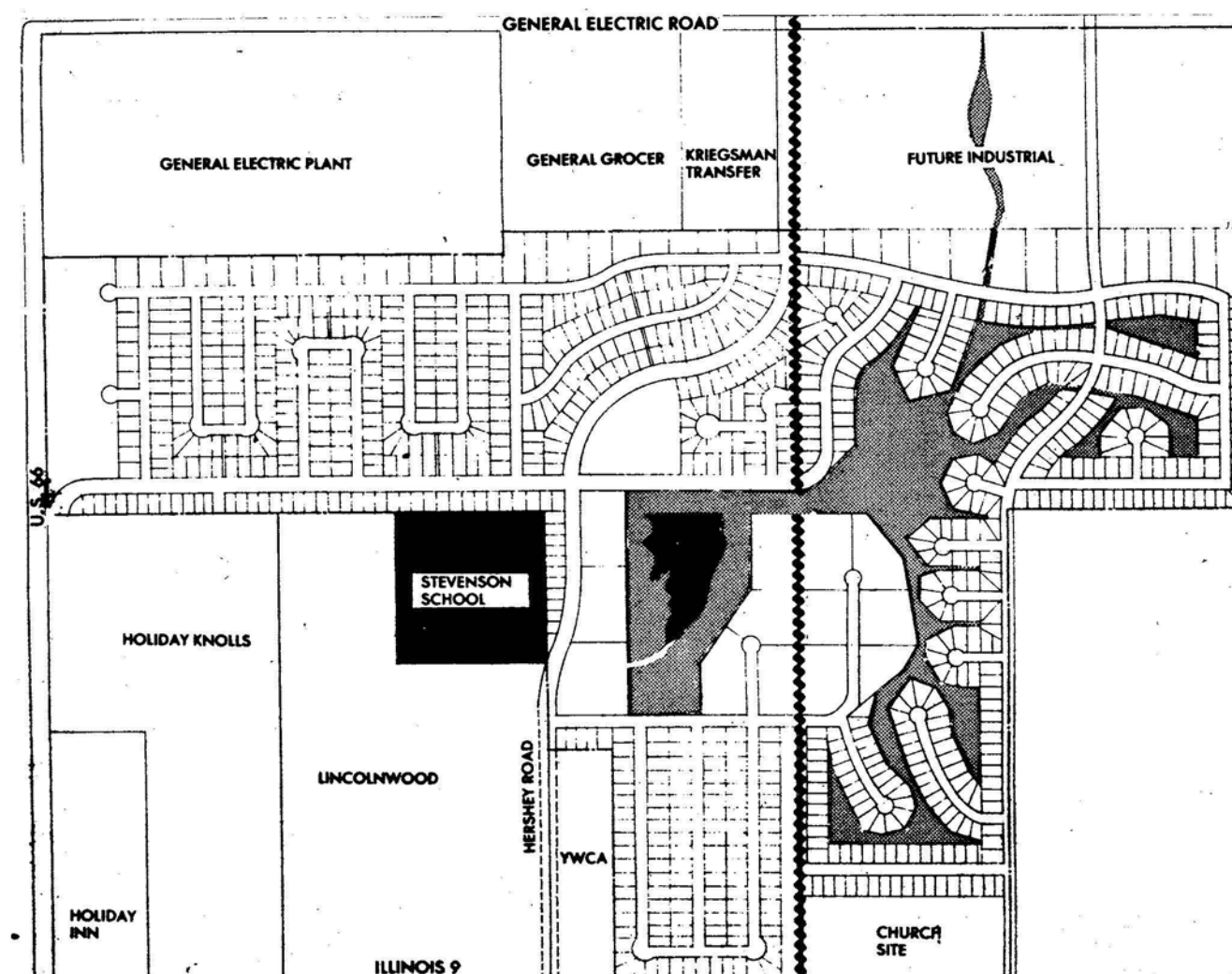
Even bicycles risk everything trying to cross the Route 9-US 66 intersection.

Safe walking depends both on alert walkers and alert drivers. But at the US 66-Route 9 intersection, most drivers must use all their powers of attention just keeping track of what lane to be in and which light to pay attention to. (See drawing.) Managing the driving, getting to the right place, and watching for pedestrians requires an extraordinary driver, especially in the dangerous dusk and night hours. Current driver's test standards do not presently ensure that such extraordinary operators will be the only ones driving at the US 66-Route 9 intersection.

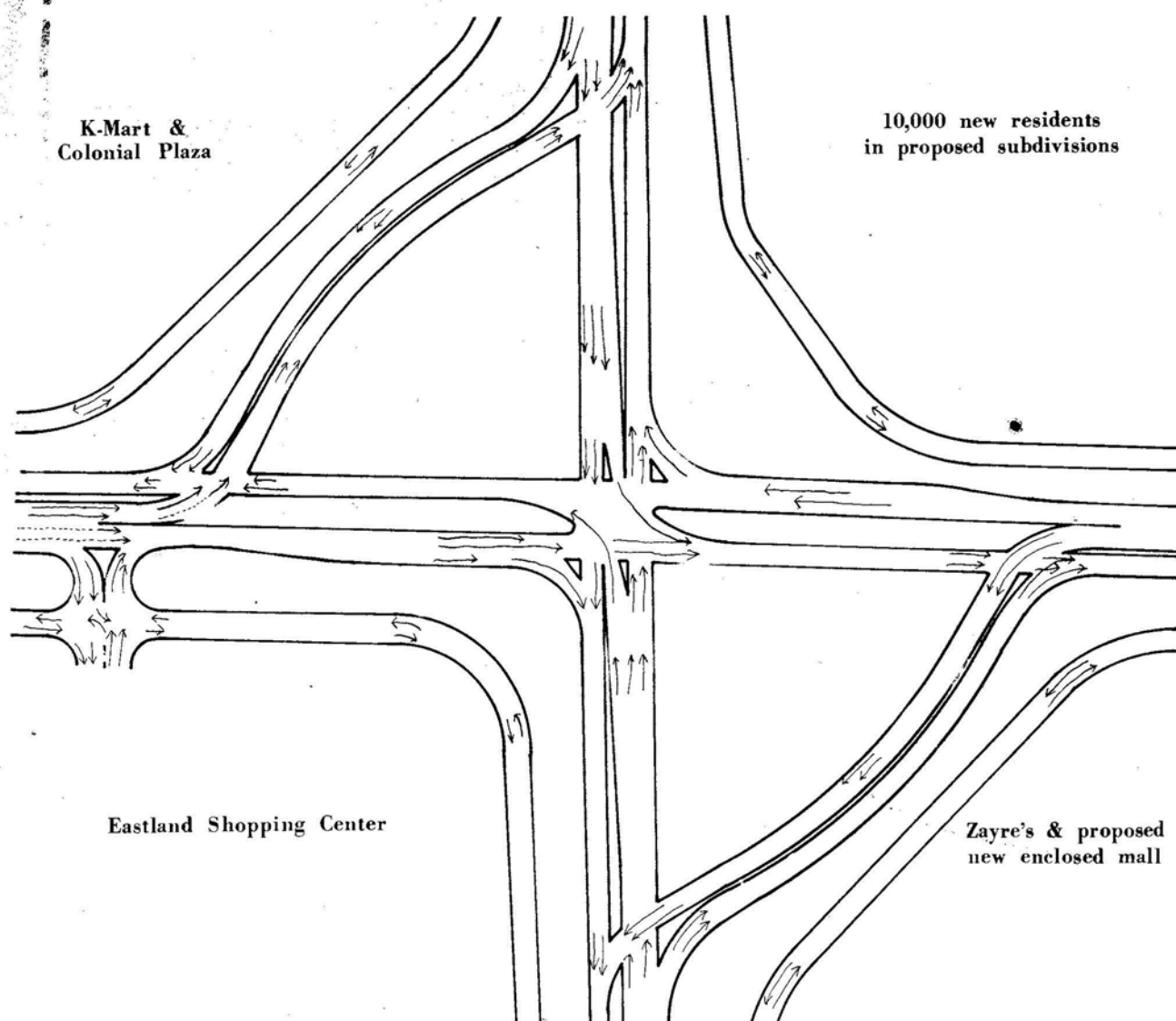
The intersection is dangerous enough already. If residential developments presently planned are built, they will directly contribute to the intersection's greatly increased danger.

There are other projects traditionally paid for by government which developers of new areas must pay for. Developers of new subdivisions pay for sewers, water mains, sidewalks, initial street building (the city pays for the repairs two years later). Forcing the developers (rather than the city) to pay for a pedestrian overpass would extend the principle that developers pay for expenses the origin of which can be directly traced to the development.

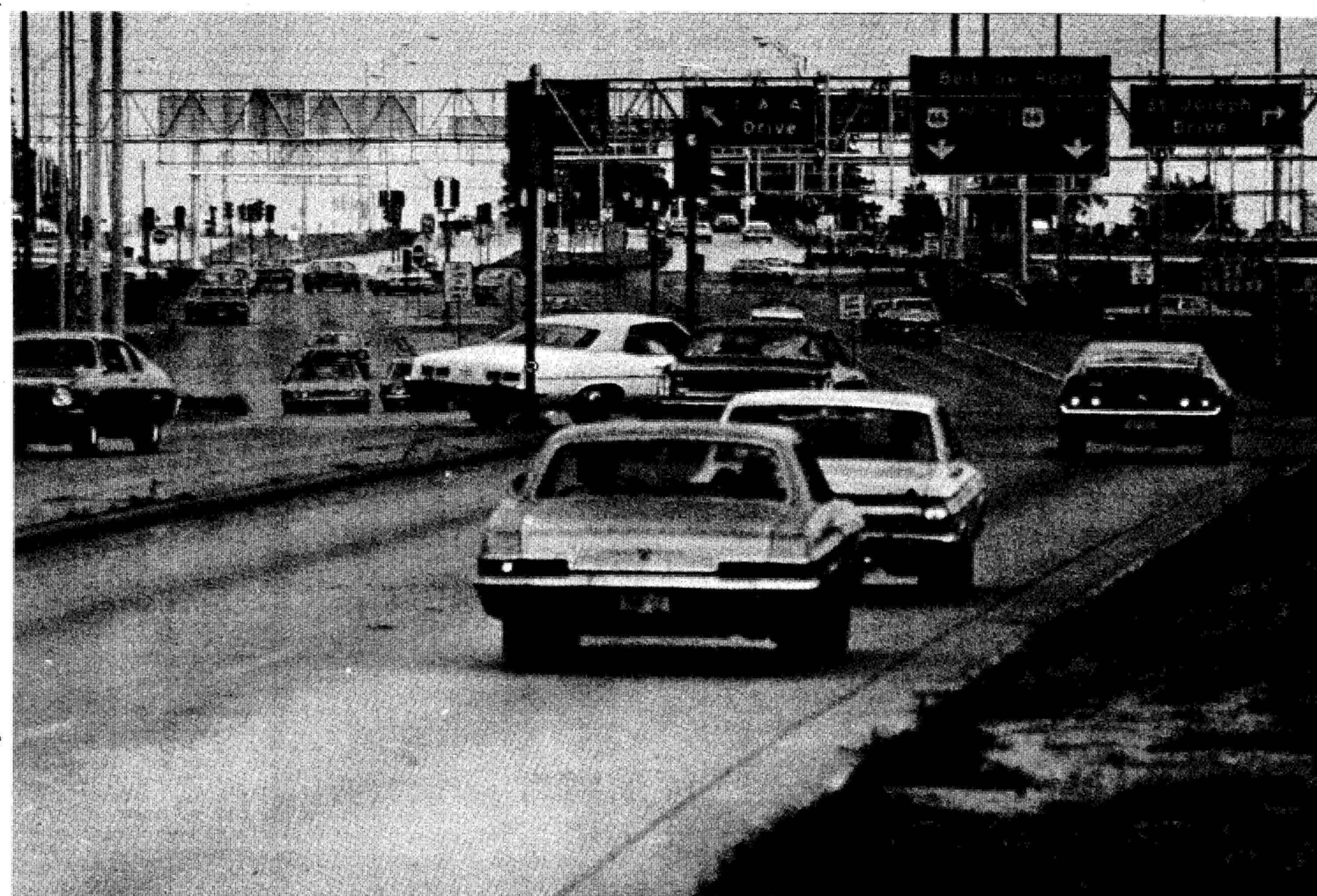
If Laurance Hundman had to pay for an overpass to safely conduct the residents of his subdivision over US 66, he would argue that he would have to increase the price of his houses (or decrease his profits). Maybe so. But then, by including the cost of an overpass, the price of the new houses would represent a more accurate reflection of the entire costs to the community of allowing east-of-US 66 development. Such a cost increase in east-side houses could possibly make rebuilding or rehabilitating areas of Central Bloomington more attractive. Sewers, streets and sidewalks are already there, and neither the developer, the taxpayers, nor the future residents would have to pay for any overpasses. —MS



Plans have been modified somewhat since this drawing (above) appeared in the February 26 Pantagraph, but the basic idea remains: add 430 acres to Bloomington, developing over 1130 single family homes and over 2200 apartment and condominium units. Planning and Zoning Commissioner James Yoder said, "We're talking about over 10,000 people. That's like a whole new town." In lower left corner of drawing is intersection of US 66 and Route 9. The wavy dark line divides Hundman property on the left from Sam Holder's proposed development on the right. Already existing Holiday Knolls and Lincolnwood subdivisions are white areas in lower left.



Drawing above shows complex traffic pattern at US 66 and Route 9 Intersection. Each arrow represents a lane of traffic. There are no sidewalks and no walk lights. Between most of the roads are fairly deep ditches, hiding pedestrians until they suddenly pop up beside the pavement. Following the diagram above, try to plot a course from the new planned subdivisions in the upper right corner to one of the shopping areas on the left, either Eastland or K-Mart/Colonial Plaza. Remember that the cars you will be dodging are lost, too, and can hardly figure out which way they intend to turn next. Eastland Shopping Center, responsible for most of the heavy auto traffic, should have paid part of the right-of-way acquisition costs and construction costs for expanding this intersection a few years ago. Taxpayers paid instead. The City should force developers to build pedestrian overpasses before they build living units for 10,000 people or more in the upper right section of this diagram.



Here's another view of the intersection where future residents of the proposed Hundman and Holder subdivisions will get killed trying to walk to the store.

MEG undercover agent arrested

Longtime MEG undercover agent John "Bill" Stephens was arrested in mid-June on a two count indictment charging sexual offenses with a five year old girl.

Stephens, a Bloomington patrolman assigned to work full time with MEG, had already been suspended by police chief Bosshardt when the indictment was handed down.

Stephens must have known the arrest was coming, as he was able to immediately post \$1,500 cash for bail.

The indictment charges that Stephens knowingly engaged in an act of "lewd fondling" of a 5 year old girl "with the intent to arouse or satisfy his sexual desires." The incident occurred May 29, at the girl's home, while Stephens was off-duty. Stephens was reportedly visiting the girl's parents on the day of the crime.

Stephens is still suspended from the force, and will be until the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners holds a hearing. The hearing has been postponed twice, at Stephens' request. As long as Stephens continues to get postponements, he will continue to be suspended without pay. Meanwhile, he must face criminal proceedings.

Stephens entered a plea of not guilty June 29, and successfully moved to reduce his bail to \$750 cash. His new bond agreement shows a new address of 202 Shelbourne Drive, Apt. A, Normal.

In a routine procedure, prosecutors filed a list of possible witnesses for the state. They

include the 5-year-old, her parents, a Normal doctor, and Sgt. Gibson, Detective Patton, and Detective Heoniges of the Bloomington Police.

A Bloomington cop for ten years, Stephens has been assigned to the MEG undercover marijuana police since the spring of 1974. Previously, Stephens was assigned as a police counselor to Bloomington High School. During those years, Stephens also moonlighted as a school bus driver, handling routes for both grade school and high school age kids.

As an undercover MEG agent, Stephens quickly became involved in the questionable undercover activities which later brought a series of charges by the American Civil Liberties Union and subsequent investigation by the Illinois Bureau of Investigation (IBI).

When Pekin Judge James Heiple explained why he dismissed an early MEG case, he blamed much of it on "poor and unprofessional police work." One of the agents involved was Bill Stephens, whose testimony, the judge suggested, sounded like the "concoction" of "an overzealous narcotics agent." That was one of the earliest charges of MEG agents lying on the stand, and Bill Stephens was involved from the beginning.

Stephens was also responsible for obtaining and delivering a forged transcript from Bloomington High School which falsely claimed that a MEG-supplied informant was a BHS transfer student. Stephens was helping an undercover informant enroll in and infiltrate Pekin High School, without the School Board's knowledge.

According to the informant's later testimony, Stephens told her that the forged transcript was "a federal offense."



RIGHT: While an undercover agent, Bill Stephens also drove a school bus for grade school and high school age kids. He was a little camera-shy when we took this photo last Fall.

Jerry LaGrow lied about



MEG chief Lagrow, 666 S. 4th St. in Morton, lied about his unit's conviction record.

MEG director Jerry LaGrow told outright lies about his unit's conviction record in a June 17 meeting with the Bloomington City Council, members of Bloomington and Normal police administration, and Normal and McLean County governmental staff.

LaGrow was present to persuade the City of Bloomington to stay a part of the 6-county MEG undercover police force.

LaGrow's account of his conviction record was not the mere distortion of the truth one would ordinarily expect from self-serving statistical bragging; it was an outright lie.

LaGrow told the assembled officials that MEG has had only six cases dismissed and only six defendants acquitted in the drug squad's two-year history.

I can count more MEG court losses in McLean County alone than LaGrow admits in the entire 6-county area.

I am going to list them. I am going to list them by date and case number so that anyone can easily look these up and verify that I am right and LaGrow is lying.

I am not counting cases dismissed in plea bargaining. I am not counting cases dismissed because the defendant is already doing time on another charge, or in another county or state. I am not counting cases dismissed on a technicality if they were later reinstated.

I am counting only cases in which the defendant goes free from MEG's failure to present a convincing enough case.

Unless otherwise stated, these are all drug delivery charges filed by MEG. The case numbers are McLean County numbers. Anyone wishing to check the veracity of this information can ask for these case files by number at the McLean County Circuit Clerk's Office in the Courthouse.

Some of the information giving the prosecution's reason for dropping certain cases comes from a recently released report about MEG. This report, prepared by the Executive Committee of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC), examines the results of the IBI investigation of MEG. When I'm telling where I got information for this list, I will refer to this as the "ILEC report."

Here is the real list of MEG's court losses:

1. Ricky Martin was found not guilty in a bench trial in January, 1976. His case number is 74cf680.

2. Janet Martin was found not guilty in a bench trial in December, 1975. Her case number: 74 cf 678.

3. Sammy Neal's case (75 cf 173) was dismissed in May, 1975. The State's Attorney agreed to the dismissal after Neal passed two lie detector tests which backed up his contention that he had been entrapped by MEG informant

Shelby Stiger. (see ILEC Report, pages 47-51) with ACLU backing, Neal is currently suing MEG for \$1,000,000.

4. Sammy Neal's case number 74 cf 682 was also dismissed in May, 1975. The reasons are the same as above.

5. Tony Griffith, case 75 cf 268, won a motion for dismissal in February '76 after he, too, passed lie detector tests. Griffith's defense was really an expose of the tactics of MEG agent Ford Conley, who, according to Griffith's account, distributed drugs, smoked pot, and hounded and hounded Griffith to sell marijuana. Griffith finally picked a substance in a field and sold it to Conley. (See Post-American Vol. V #3).

6. A second charge against Tony Griffith, 75 cf 269, was also dismissed on the basis of the defendant's successful passing of polygraph tests.

7. Barb Nichols' case (75 cf 201) was dismissed at the request of the State's Attorney in November, 1975. It turned out that Nichols hadn't even delivered anything to agent Ford Conley; instead she and Conley had pooled their money to buy from a third person. After buying 100 tablets of amphetamine for \$17, Agent Conley gave Barb Nichols 15 tablets, as compensation for the \$2 she had thrown in. Agent Conley actually delivered to the MEG defendant! Conley barely escaped being indicted himself for this action. (See ILEC Report, pp. 55-56.)

8. Barb Nichols' second charge (75 cf 202) was also dismissed at the urging of the State's Attorney, this one in January, 1976. This count was dropped because of the deep involvement of MEG agent Conley in Ms. Nichols' life; he had been dating her and had spent a night in her bed. (ILEC Report, p. 56)

9. Dale Stillwell (75 cf 200) mounted a defense of entrapment at his jury trial in September, 1975. After hours of deliberation, the jury could not reach a verdict. The State's Attorney decided that "further prosecution was not in the best interests of justice," according to the ILEC Report, p. 55.

10. Dan Rink (75 cf 194) was acquitted

for child molesting

The IBI investigation later confirmed that someone prepared the forged document at Bloomington High School at Bill Stephens' urging. Stephens must have been exploiting a relationship developed while a police counselor at the school.

Despite the fact that forging the transcript was a violation of law, Bloomington School Superintendent George Stimeling merely said the forgery was "poor judgment." No disciplinary action was taken within the school, nor did any prosecutors attempt to bring charges.

While working undercover for MEG, Stephens also has been driving a school bus for high school and grade school students. While Stephens' primary motive may be moonlighting, he certainly couldn't help but spy on the students, hearing them talking on the bus and pricking up his ears when kids' conversations turned to areas which could interest an undercover cop. On occasion, Stephens probably asked seemingly innocent questions of the children, in an attempt to pump them for information.

Stephens was head of MEG's Bloomington office from the time it opened in July 1974 until his suspension. As head of this satellite office, Stephens was responsible for interviewing potential informers and instructing informers on how to conduct themselves. The widespread abuses committed by MEG informers in the Bloomington-Normal area could be partly attributed to Stephens' conscious policies or his poor supervision of his "special employees."

The Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC), the body which partially funds MEG units, requires conformance with a special set of guidelines for informers' conduct. MEG agents, particularly agents who supervise informers (as Stephens was) are held particularly responsible for enforcement of the guidelines. These guidelines have been widely violated in McLean County MEG cases. In fact, MEG agent Ford Conley was fired because he violated these guidelines during the time he was only an informer. Stephens was supervising Conley at the time, and there is no way Stephens could have been ignorant of Conley's violations of the rules governing conduct of MEG informers. (See adjoining story on Conley's getting fired.)

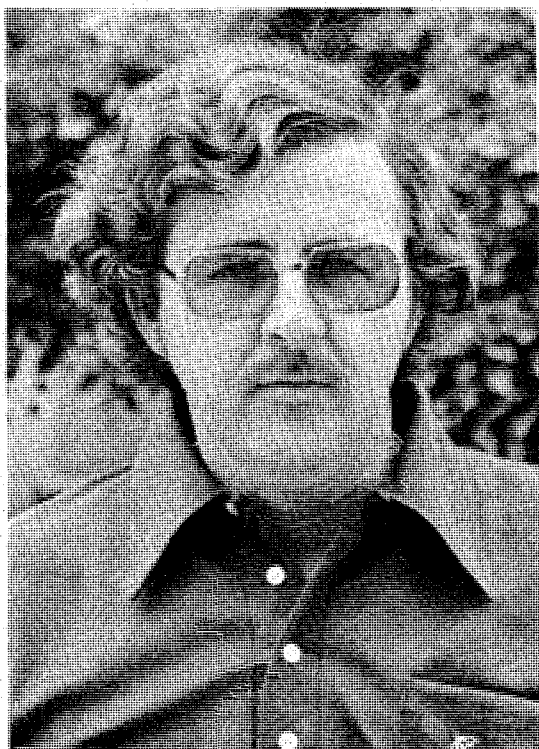
ILEC guidelines instruct MEG agents to discourage informers from turning in friends, unless they are turning in a highly significant supplier in the area.

Yet, while head of MEG's Bloomington office, Bill Stephens allowed these informers to make their drug cases solely on the basis of personal friendships; Jeff Sielaff, Reid Jacobson, Victor Michael Yeltz, Ford Jonathan Conley, Randy Wyant, Gerald Daniels.

Another MEG informer, named "Paul" (not his real name) in an early Post-American story, was allowed to make his cases by turning in personal friends to MEG. "Paul's" story (we agreed not to print his name in return for the interview) appeared in the Post in May, 1975. "Paul" worked under Bill Stephens, and actually smoked hashish while riding around with MEG agents. "Paul" said the agents refused his offer to share

in the smoking, but didn't instruct him to put the pipe away.

MEG defendants who have been victims of the unscrupulous tactics Stephens and his subordinates used are probably delighted that the undercover narc now gets to experience the other side of the judicial system.



Bill Stephens (above) sent many to jail for petty drug offenses. Now he faces several years in prison himself.

narcs' conviction record

in a September, 1975 trial. He had been charged with selling \$1 worth of amphetamine to MEG Agent Ford Conley.

11. Doug Dawson (75 cf 500) won acquittal in a May, 1976 jury trial. After 12 hours deliberation, the jury decided it believed Dawson's word over the testimony of two professional narcotics agents.

12. Gary Meyer's case (75 cf 489) got thrown out in a preliminary hearing in February, 1976. After several continuances, it became clear that MEG's crucial witness, informer Randy Wyant, wasn't showing up. The state could present no evidence.

13. Stephen Wills also won his case (75 cf 493) in March, 1976 because of the involvement of MEG informer Randy Wyant. The state presented no evidence at the preliminary hearing, and the judge dismissed the case.

14. Richard Kimbrell (75 cf 501) also won his case at a preliminary hearing in February, 1976.

15. Pam Albertson is another MEG defendant found not guilty in a trial. Hers was in October, 1975; her case number is 75 cf 162. Unlike the others listed so far, Albertson was charged with drug possession, not delivery.

The next 3 defendants were also charged only with possession.

16. Beverly Beachy's possession charge was thrown out in February, 1976, for insufficient evidence. Case 75 cf 166.

17. Leslie Patricia Anderson also won her MEG possession case (75 cf 163) on grounds of insufficient evidence. She was freed in March, 1976.

18. Charles Bruce McConnell Jr. was charged by MEG with possession and had his case dismissed in a January, 1975 preliminary hearing. Case 74 cf 652.

Those 18 cases are dismissals or acquittals in McLean County alone. That's six more court losses than LaGrow admits to for a whole 6-county area.

Despite only sporadic reading about MEG cases in other counties, I can list three more MEG court losses from Tazewell County.

19. Ed Cotton won the first victory from MEG in early 1975 when a Pekin judge rendered a directed verdict of acquittal in Cotton's jury trial. This case was covered in the Bloomington Pantagraph, and the MEG agents' misconduct in the Cotton case became the later subject of an IBI investigation. When Jerry LaGrow told a galesburg newspaper (after the acquittal) that Cotton was really guilty, he got hit with a still-pending \$7½ million libel suit.

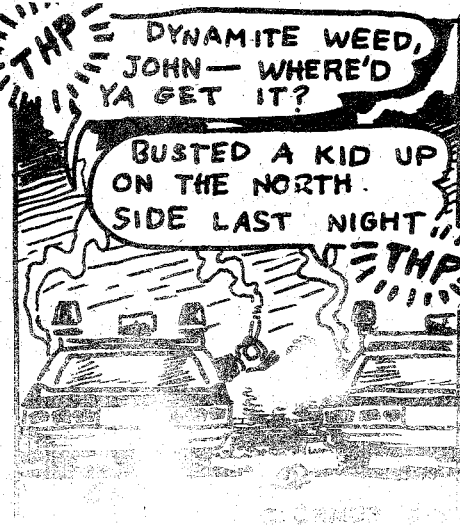
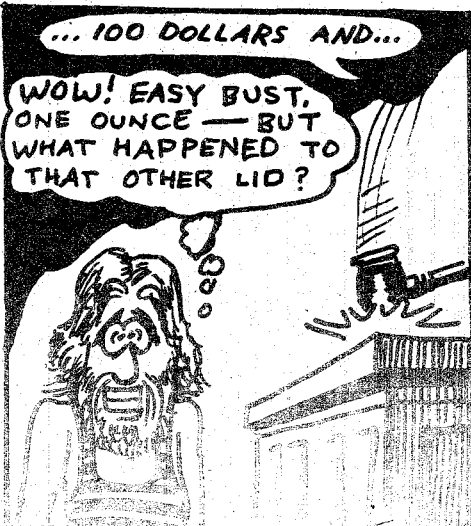
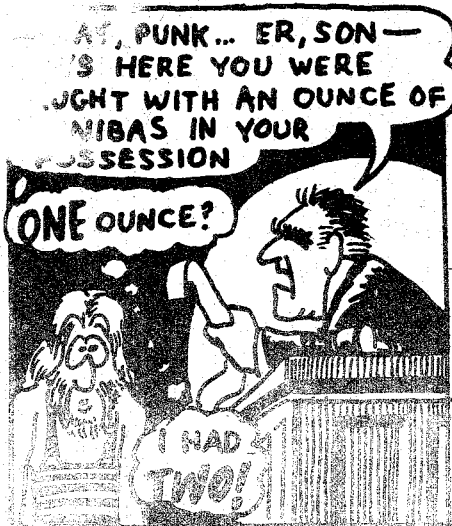
20. Charles Clement of East Peoria

gained outright dismissal of his delivery of cannabis charge when the State's Attorney found out that MEG's version of the circumstances was not really what happened. According to a February 26 article in the Peoria Journal Star, the MEG informer, not Clement, actually made the delivery. Clement lived with the MEG informer who was trying to set him up, just as MEG informer Ford Conley set up his roommate Dale Stillwell in McLean County.

21. The Tazewell County State's Attorney dismissed a MEG delivery charge against Rod Meyers "in the interest of justice," according to a January 7, 1975 article in the Pekin Times. The article quoted prosecutor C. Brett Bode explaining that his investigation had "determined that the narcotics agent had used 'entrapment' in making the buy."

I know about these 21 cases from a close following of MEG case in McLean County, and an infrequent monitoring of MEG cases in Tazewell County. What about the other 4 MEG counties? Even if MEG has a perfect record in Fulton, Warren, Knox and Peoria Counties (highly doubtful), LaGrow still cut MEG's loss rate in half when speaking to Bloomington-Normal officials June 17.

--M.S.



Normal Starts Undercover Drug Unit

Normal voted to start its own undercover drug enforcement unit at a July 6 Council meeting. The action, opposed by Councilpeople Harmon and Lawlis, was based on the recommendation of City Manager Dave Anderson and Normal Police Chief McGuire.

The Council voted \$5,000 to start the undercover unit. Ironically, the money was taken from a \$10,000 fund earmarked for Project Lighthouse, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation and treatment center.

Metromanager Dave Anderson's earlier recommendation for a multi-jurisdictional joint McLean County drug unit had emphasized treatment, rehabilitation, and education. Now Anderson has reversed his position, taking money intended for treatment and putting it into arrests, instead.

As Councilperson Harmon said, the new unit is bound to focus its investigations on drug users, not pushers.

Metromanager Anderson refused to be specific about how the new drug squad would operate. According to the Pantagraph, Anderson said it would not be "appropriate" to relate the details.

"I don't believe they should be made a matter of public record, the Pantagraph quoted Anderson. "I don't believe we ought to put all our cards on the table at one time as to how we intend to deal with the drug pushers operating in this city," Anderson continued, according to the Pantagraph story on July 7.

The Council wound up approving a plan they hadn't even seen. All they know (unless there have been some back-room briefings) is that Normal Police Chief McGuire will take an extra \$5,000 to use for "buying information and narcotics"--not a heck of a lot of money to get the big pushers. The Normal drug squad is apparently intending to use already hired members of Normal's detective division. If that's the case, their cover is not likely to last long.

The drug unit was approved for an 8-month "experimental" period. How the Normal council intends to evaluate the unit's worth after that time was never stated.

Anderson's recommendation was the last in a series of drug enforcement policy flip-flops he has been executing over the past few months.

When McLean County chose to withdraw from the MEG unit several months ago, Bloomington had to decide what it wanted to do.

First, Dave Anderson pushed for a county-wide drug unit that would include Bloomington, Normal, the County police, and ISU police. Anderson wanted the drug squad to concentrate on education rather than undercover enforcement. No one seemed to buy his idea. An editorial in the Pantagraph, in fact, blasted it, stating that "education" plain didn't work and that enforcement was the only answer to the local "drug problem." (Education, though, is a two-way street, and since part of

our drug problem is created by ignorant law-makers and enforcers, it is inevitable that a one-way education program fail.)

Then, Anderson recommended that Bloomington withdraw from MEG. The City Council decided to remain in MEG, and scheduled a meeting with Jerry LaGrow, MEG director, and Normal and County officials. That meeting occurred June 17, and Metromanager Anderson suddenly became so enthusiastic about MEG that he said he was thinking of recommending that the city of Normal join up.

Another alternative, Anderson said after that June meeting with LaGrow, was that Normal could form its own drug unit under the control of the N.P.D. That's what they did.

Attention People in Peoria, Pekin, Canton, Lewiston & Monmouth!! Help!!

The Post-Amerikan is looking for residents of these towns outside McLean County to help get and pass on information on the 6-County MEG undercover narcs. People who want to help could do all kinds of things, which could include: talking to defendants, watching trials, following narcs and informers, taking license numbers, taking photographs, looking up court files, etc., and relaying any information obtained to the Post-Amerikan.

If you might be interested, or want to know more, call the Post-Amerikan (309) 828-7232 or write us at PO Box 3452, Bloomington. 61701.

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IBI Narcs Jailed for Pot, State Rep. Charges

Three undercover IBI agents were once arrested in Warren County for selling marijuana, State Representative Samuel McGrew charged in General Assembly debate, according to a June 26 article in the Galesburg Register-Mail.

McGrew said the IBI agents had secured some pot and, as an investigative technique, were going around soliciting sales. "Only trouble was, they failed to tell local police, and were arrested for selling pot and spent the night in jail," the Register Mail quoted McGrew House speech.

McGrew's comments were offered in support of an unsuccessful attempt to stop the IBI's budget from being approved.

Twenty House members agreed with abolishing the agency, which was compared to the bumbling Keystone cops.

IBI head Wayne Kerstetter was quoted as being "flabbergasted" by McGrew's claim that IBI agents had been arrested.

But McGrew told the Galesburg paper that he had checked the story with two other area House members, who both recalled the incident. The IBI agents were supposedly arrested in July or August, 1975.

Warren County police officials said they had no records of such arrests, but later admitted no records would be kept if the agents hadn't been charged.

In a related development, less than two weeks after the legislative attempt to kill the IBI, Wayne Kerstetter resigned as head of the agency. According to a July 6 Chicago Daily News story, an inside source attributed Kerstetter's surprise resignation partly to anger over the legislative attempt to abolish the IBI.

**Pekin, Peoria,
Canton, Lewiston, &
Monmouth
residents:**

HELP STOP MEG!

(see ad, opposite page)

Meet Shelby Stiger

MEG informer Shelby Stiger is one of the defendants in ACLU's \$1 million entrapment suit against MEG. While working for MEG in the fall of 1974, Stiger gave a package of heroin to Sammy Neal, and told Neal to give it to "JJ," who was MEG agent Robert J. Edwards. Caught in the middle, Neal was busted for delivery to "JJ." Neal spent several months in jail until his successfully passing a lie detector test convinced the State's Attorney to drop charges because of entrapment. The issue in the ACLU suit is only whether or not MEG knew its informer was setting Neal up. After dropping Neal's charge, the State's Attorney indicted Stiger for delivering the heroin to Neal in the first place. That count was later dropped when Stiger pled guilty to forgery, and got five years probation. MEG used Stiger on several other cases besides Neal's, according to an ILEC report which discussed the basis of ACLU's charges.



Ex-Narc Hard to Employ?

Last issue we reported that Ford Jonathan Conley, the narc who busted his girlfriend and his own roommate, was fired from MEG.

Since his termination April 16, Conley has worked for two different police agencies.

After a period of unemployment, Conley became a member of the Marshall County Sheriff's Department. After only 5-6 weeks as a deputy, Conley changed jobs --he was hired as a city policeman by the town of Lakin, which is in Marshall County.

Conley was fired because the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC) could not overlook the particularly odious tactics Conley had used while an informer for MEG in late 1974--before he was hired as a full-time agent. The IBI investigation of MEG had accumulated irrefutable evidence that Conley had committed several direct violations of the ILEC guidelines for informer conduct. Some of the particulars of Conley's violations of ILEC guidelines were related in Post-Amerikan Vol IV #11 last February. The full story of why MEG fired Ford Conley will be told next issue.



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More information on last issue's new narcs

When we printed these photos of previously unknown narcs last issue, we knew specific information about only one of them: Gary Higbee. Because of the overwhelming response to the publication of these candid shots (we completely sold out of papers right away) we are reprinting them again this issue. We knew that everyone who wanted copies didn't get them. Also, we now have more complete information about two of these characters. The Post-Amerikan offers thanks to all the folks who called up with information about these men. Anyone with further information should call us up (309) 828-7232 or write to the Post-Amerikan at PO Box 3452, Bloomington, 61701.

Though these photos were taken in May, the narcs didn't even know their pictures had been taken until early June, when the Post-Amerikan was printed. We had thought we caught these narcs in their beginning training; we were wrong. Though we still have no reports that these narcs have yet been responsible for any arrests, some had been operating for several months before we revealed their true identities. They were in some kind of training when these photos were taken in Springfield, but it probably wasn't their very first narc lessons.



?? ??

We still don't know who this narc is, nor do we have any reports of where he is working. In May he drove a light green Torino, with license number GA 3536. If you see this man, call the Post-Amerikan.

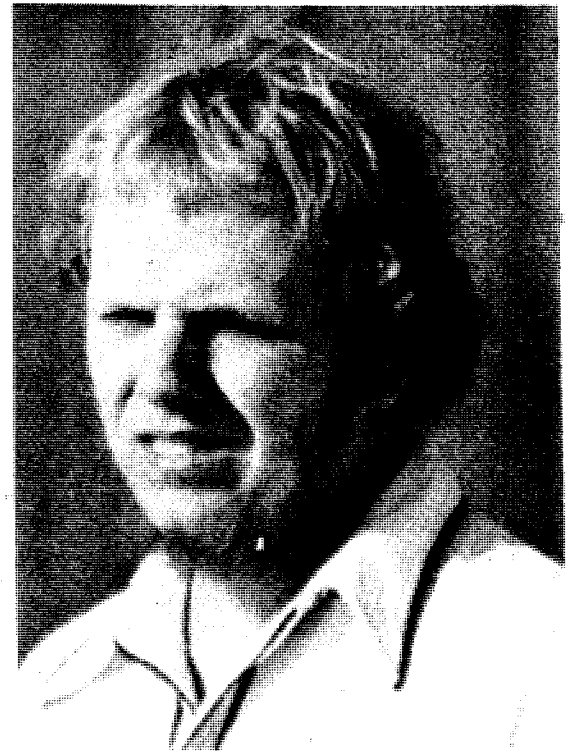


Mark Lehmann

Mark Lehmann was immediately assigned to MEG when he joined the McLean County Sheriff's Department late in 1975. With McLean County's withdrawal from MEG effective June 15, 1976, Lehmann should be back in the Sheriff's Dept. as a regular deputy.

Though Lehmann is no longer with MEG, people who had dealings with him can still be busted. People who knew this man between Dec. and June should call the Post; we want to know who introduced you to him.

While working for MEG, Lehmann had a yellow Firebird, license 448 673. If that's a MEG car, some other narc is probably driving it now. Lehmann is listed in the Bloomington phone book at 711 Hilltop Ct., 828-9687.



Craig Salmon

Craig Salmon is a Pekin resident whose narc activities have taken him to Bloomington and Galesburg. The 1976 Pekin City Directory says Salmon is superintendent of Recreation for the Pekin Park District. A reporter calling the Park District office was told that Salmon had quit to work for the police. When the Pekin police said they hadn't heard of Salmon, the Park District was called again. The secretary said Salmon was "working undercover." The Pekin City Directory said Salmon lives with his wife Kathy at 703 Audubon Drive, Apt 5, Pekin. (309) 347-1649.



Gary Higbee

A Warren County deputy assigned to MEG, Gary Higbee lives at RR #2 Monmouth, according to the City Directory. Higbee has driven a maroon Camero, 429 575. If you have information on this man, call the Post-Amerikan.



SPROUTS FOR GOOD HEALTH

23

Sprouts have been called "the complete nourishment and most perfect food" by scientists. There is good reason why this is so. Within each seed are all the materials necessary to start new life. Everything needed to produce health or maintain health including protein and minerals, vitamins and oil, carbohydrates and hormones are contained in sprouts.

Dr. Paul Burkholder of Yale University found that by sprouting seed vitamin B is increased 100%. The following chart gives other qualities of the sprouted seed:

Nicotinic acid	500%	Folic Acid	600%
Biotin	50%	Inositol	100%
Pantothenic acid	200%	Thiamin B-1	10%
Pyridoxine B-6	500%	Riboflavin	1350%

Sprouts are also considered "the complete protein." Sprouts are a quick energy food; they contain natural sugar. One does not need soil to grow this inexpensive food; even if you live in one room it is possible to sprout. It is good food for survival. The seed will keep up to one year if stored in a cool, dry place. Three tablespoons of seed will render a quart of nourishing food in six days. They are delicious for salads, juices and to take to work for a snack.



LENTIL

WHEAT



MUNG



GARBANZO

Just think, one pound of seed grows into 7 pounds of the best food and complete nourishment that there is. If a financial crisis occurs, it will be possible for a person to live healthfully for six months on less than \$50.00.

Why do we have malnourished people in our country if people can live healthfully for a cent a meal? Why do people spend such high prices in supermarket food when they are eating dead materials, live food destroyed by chemicals?

Lentils are the easiest seeds to sprout. Mung-beans and fenugreek and chickpeas are good too. Alfalfa is the best in many ways. Alfalfa will turn green if left in the sun. It is necessary to keep them covered for a few days in order for the chlorophyll, which is very important, to manifest in them.

Sprouts will do better in 2 quart wide mouthed jars. Generally, one can get these bottles in eating places for free. A piece of cheese cloth or any nylon mesh and elastic will fasten the top.

How to Sprout 1. Put 3 tablespoons of small seed in a two quart jar, half full of water. Soak overnight; cover the top with plastic screen or cheesecloth. Fasten with a rubber band. 2. Pour water off and rinse with tepid water. Set jar upside down to drain. Rinse, thereafter, twice a day before it has completely drained. 4. The third to sixth day when the sprouts are ready, eat or store in the refrigerator.

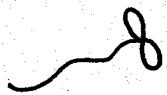
...AND GOOD EATING

Fruit Salads: Cut up your favorite fruits (I like bananas, apples, peaches, and bingcherries) mix them together. Add some chopped nuts and wheat germ if you like - then throw in a handful of sprouts.

Add a handful of sprouts to your lettuce salads and tacos.

Add some sprouts to cheese sandwiches, or make an avocado sandwich. On 2 slices of whole-wheat bread spread on some mayonise, then put avocado slices on the bread - add some onion and/or greenpepper, some sprouts then maybe some leaf lettuce.

Use your imagination !



ALFALFA



food for thought

At our present world population, there's only one acre of agricultural land per person. One-fourth acre or less is needed to feed a vegetarian. People depending on animal protein need 3 acres or more. While one acre will provide, as beef, 77 days worth of protein for one person, it will produce 236 days of protein in mild, 877 days in whole wheat, and 2,224 days in soybeans.

A beef animal must consume 100 calories to produce 10 calories in meat. And it takes 21 pounds of plant protein fed to cattle to get 1lb. of meat protein.

Eighteen million tons of protein are lost in the meat-from-feed transaction each year in the U.S. ALONE. If wasted protein could be fed directly to the world's starving in the form of cereal grains, it would meet 90% of the world's protein deficiency.

MARION STRUGGLE

Dear Friends,

I am writing you about the severe situation here at the U.S. prison in Marion. My preliminary hearing was the 16th and the trial is the 1st. The case against the officials will be on Monday the 21st at Benton, Illinois, a change from Marion, where most hearings have been held.

Since I filed ten suits against the officials, even heavier harassment has started. This has included a new assault on me in my cell by officer J.R. Bullington on June 12th, plus a sexual attack which the Grand Jury is now investigating.

The judge, James Foreman, my attorney, and the U.S. attorney have been notified that certain officers in the lock-up here have offered favors for sex. Witnesses to both this and the sexual assault by J.R. Bullington have signed statements.

On, Wednesday, the 16th of June, J.R. Bullington charged me with two false charges. Prison Court members took six months Commissary away from me. Eight witnesses have signed statements vouching that the two charges against me are false.

Lt. Shields, who has attempted to attack me, has two assault charges against him in court and will be testified against at Benton on the 21st.

Also, officials set up Larry Shorter, a mentally ill inmate here, because he is our main witness. They attempted to cut him and then charged him with fighting, placing him in lock-up.

Demoralization and dehumanization of inmates by federal officials are only one frightening part of the mind control and behavior modification programs here at Marion.

We ask that letters of support be sent to: Attorney, Freddy L. Shapiro/ 1006 Walnut Street/ Murphysboro, Illinois/ 62966

and letters of protest to: Warden Charles Fenton and officer J.R. Bullington/ P.O. Box 1000, U.S. Prison/ Marion, Illinois/ 62959.

Thank you.

In Struggle,
John Gibbs 86976-132
Chairperson, National Gay Prisoners
Coalition/ P.O. Box 1000, U.S. Prison/ Marion, Illinois/ 62959

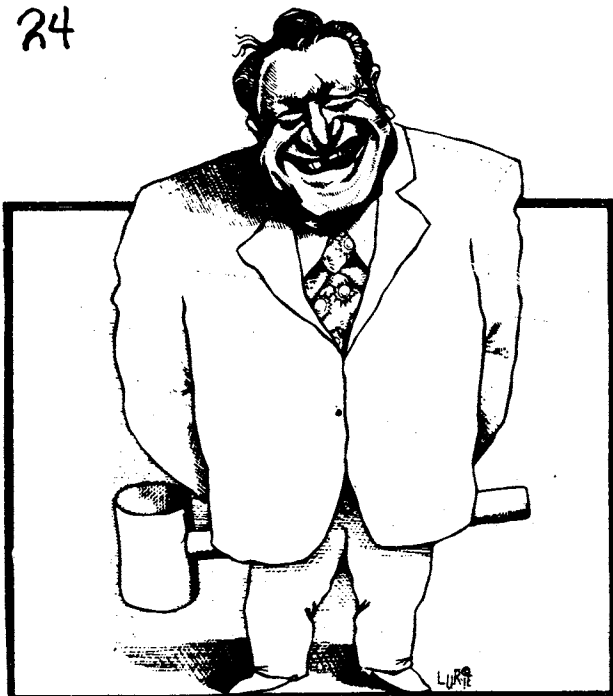
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Part I: We Love You, America

OR NATIONALISM IN CORPORATE ADVERTISING

"A package is as basic to life as life itself."

Or so claims The Continental Group, a corporation that sells cans, boxes and other packaging materials.

Well. Colorful, eye-catching packaging is basic to the lives of some people. Corporate executives, for instance. Because their goal is to sell.

So it was only natural that the men in the gray business suits would decide to create a fantastic, new package for themselves when the polls began to show that you and millions of other citizens had very low opinions of the business world.

General Motors Corporation proudly gave you "a breath of fresh air" from its catalytic converter--without mentioning that the federal government forced it to reduce pollution.

The American Iron and Steel Institute suddenly put the spotlight on the industry's few recycling programs--but neglected to mention that steel executives would choose strip mining every time recycling might cost them a few dollars more.

And then there were the oil companies scrambling to create good deeds to publicize so that you might forget the newspaper headlines about "obscene profits."

Certainly, the recession caused those gray corporate executives to fear that you might begin to begrudge them their profits just because you had to stand in long unemployment lines and eat beans every night.

But many of the world's largest corporations went beyond trying to sell a simple corporate face-

Capitalism's Biggest Sale Ever...

lift. They began paying hard cash to sell you the big picture: the American way of life, the free enterprise system, and even a special tax reform plan that promises a glorious future but doesn't carry even a limited warranty.

More Important

Some corporations are now so busy selling principles that their ads no longer mention specific products. But, after all, some things are more important than crass retailing.

Things like jobs and a warm house and food on the table.

Things like profits and nationalism. Things like the expansion of corporations and writing to your elected representatives.

Things like a future safe for democracy? No. A future safe for corporations...

"And the star-spangled banner Oh long may it wave..."

Indeed, yes, the corporations stand four-square behind the stars and stripes.

Allied Chemical proudly proclaims that it's helping to "insure the American way of life," and Atlantic Richfield presumptuously invites you to "celebrate America's Tricentennial 100 years early."

(Some sceptics might imagine that the continents of North and South America are a bit older than two centuries but everyone else knows that "America" is just another way of spelling "United States.")

The Big Picture

It's no surprise, of course, that the corporate vision of the future reserves a central position for the U.S., or at least for the military forces that nation is capable of supporting.

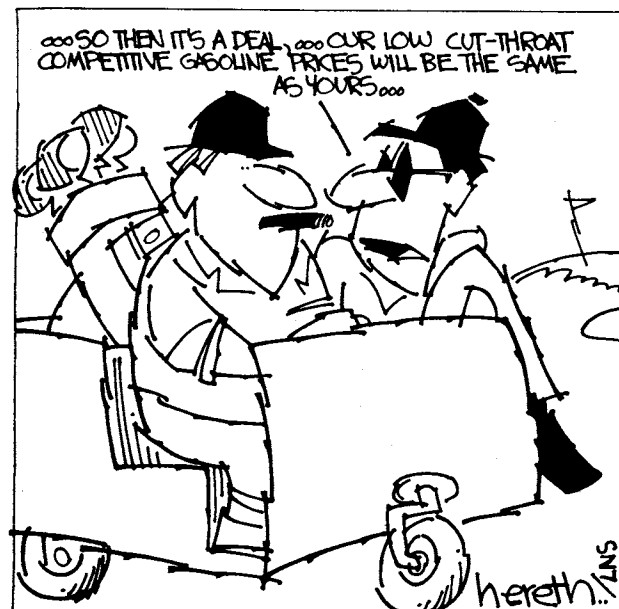
U.S. corporations gleefully roamed the globe after World War II, staking claims to raw materials and carving out commercial empires, and all the while encouraging the U.S. government to draw the lines of the "free world" so that they conveniently included the new sources of profits.

Then the corporations happily helped sell you the Cold War so that they might make still more money off the military machine they needed to protect their interests.

Now, the only thing between the men who run the corporations and the international communist conspiracy (i.e., the Russian military which is supported by similar economic organizations in the Soviet Union) they helped create is--gasp!--the United States Army.

It's too late to change horses now. Not even a strategy like GM's support of both Germany and the U.S.A. in World War II would work against the Soviet enemy which would turn out every single chairman of the board.

So, United States Steel tells you that "our nation must remain strong and productive" and that U.S. "dependence on foreign natural resources must be reduced." Of course, it's only their desire to save you money that prevents them from buying more ads to explain to you why the Third World hates the men in gray business suits or why even Russian state-capitalism is opposed to its "free" brother.



Fortunately for the corporation managers, the jingoist strategy has more virtues than mere necessity. It fits right into the political mainstream, right up there with containment, the missile gap, the domino theory, peace with honor, the Panama Canal, and Gerald Ford's we-are-second-to-none theatrics. It wins friends and influences people.

Apparently, ritualistic beating of the drum is so successful at influencing people, that many corporations use the flag as Christmas wrapping paper for



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Corporate Ideals at Bargain Prices!

the most obvious of their misdeeds. ("Misdeeds," by the way, is a word derived from "crime" in much the same way that "mis-spoke" is derived from "lie.")

For instance, profits, as Allied Chemical tells you, "enable Americans to compete with manufacturers abroad...Yet, during a period when profits are more important than ever to our nation's future, they are far from adequate." The problem is simple, says Allied's chairman John T. Connor: "As essential as profits are to the survival of our way of life, I know of few subjects so universally misunderstood."

A simple misunderstanding. You didn't understand that profits make everything--especially government--work. Stupid you always thought profits meant that someone else, somewhere, was getting rich. Well, you're wrong because "in many ways virtually all Americans--not just corporate stockholders--benefit from the profits business earns." And you'll change your mind after a little prodding because Chairman Connor is convinced "that an understanding of this subject by our people is vital to protect America's quality of life." (He really meant quantity, not quality.)

Bethlehem Steel's advertising campaign promotes the same argument: "American industry can't work magic. It can create new jobs only when it expands."

"What's the key to getting the money we need for expansion and improvement of our plants?" the ad asks. Why, you guessed it. "Better earnings!"

If by some fluke, you haven't guessed the logical conclusion of the argument yet, a Mobil ad will make it perfectly clear: "In a sagging economy, social progress stops."

Right. If Allied Chemical and Bethlehem Steel don't rake in enough of the long green, you people who live in the ghettos aren't going to have it so good.

Gotcha

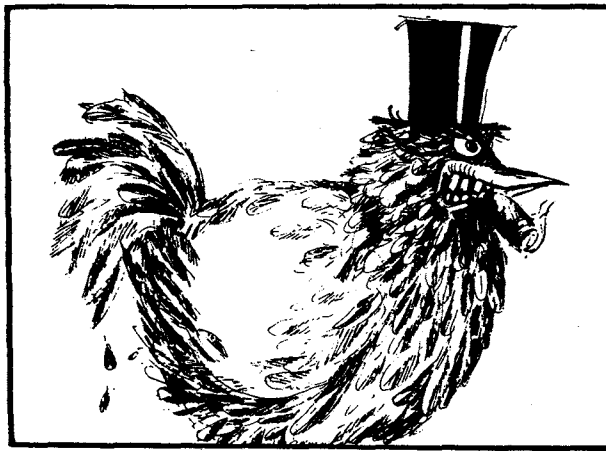
But maybe you're just a regular Joe who doesn't give a hoot for other people's social progress; you just want to collect your paycheck at the end of the week so you can stay drunk all weekend. In that case, the corporations will get you with the four-letter word that even the politicians are afraid to use this year--jobs.

Among those lining up to cash in on the winning formula (profits=expansion=jobs) is the American Gas Association: "If America wants to keep her workers working, she has to get more gas." And Armco Steel: "If the 'Environmental Movement' doesn't back off a bit Marty and Susan may have a great place to live...but no place to work!"

"Ahi!" you say. These corporations don't care about America. They've been pouring money into other countries for years. Just throw the epithet "multinational" at them and the greasy steel hand will let you go.

Alas! Union Carbide and Westinghouse have already told you that overseas investments are made only to provide more jobs in the U.S. "We manufacture abroad only when it becomes unfeasible to supply and maintain a market from the U.S.," says Union Carbide piously.

Westinghouse tries a different tactic: "We are able to keep jobs in this country because our people have high technical expertise and manufacturing skills, and because this company made very large investments..." But don't try to read any references to imperialism and cheap labor into the Westinghouse creed because the corporate



bosses are always a jump ahead of you. "Both countries benefit," claims their ad.

If you want cake and icing, too, U.S. Steel will tell you how "more than any other nation in the world, the United States has the opportunity to lead mankind toward a life of greater fulfillment...It is significant that people everywhere look to the United States to provide science and technology which they need as they, too, seek to improve their condition."

It's significant all right. Not only have they got you by the economic throat, they've also got most of the world.

Part II: You Owe Us, America

OR PROGRAMS FOR A CORPORATE FUTURE

"When the economy went out to lunch last year, and the crybabies cried and the bellyachers bellyached, who rolled up their sleeves and went to work? We did."

Obviously, the man who said that--Gilbert F. Richards, chairman, The Budd Company--thinks you ought to be grateful. After all, the profits he worked so hard for mean jobs for you.

Naturally, your gratitude should take a concrete form, but if you can't think of anything to give the men who have everything, don't worry. Chairman Richards and his corporate brothers will tell you exactly what they want.

The American Gas Association wants more natural gas. Because the "natural gas shortage is critical; to you, your job, your way of life," the gasmen want you to push for "the tough energy decisions America must make. And soon."

Mobil merely wants you to help cut the red tape that prevents the oil companies from developing the energy sources they know are out there--waiting to help someone turn a profit that benefits you. Of course, "some of these actions may require setting back environmental tables a little. But what's the alternative?" How could there be an alternative? It's simply inconceivable that you would oppose energy independence, especially this year.

Other oil companies might be satisfied if the plans to break them up were simply pronounced dead-on-arrival, but there's a good reason for that. "If they break up the oil companies you'll pay through the nose," says a Texaco ad.

Your Best Interests

Corporation executives always have your best interests in mind. Take Armco Steel, for instance. The big boys there just want you to let off a little steam for a good cause.

"Don't swallow the propaganda that the big automakers are responsible for all the increased costs in today's cars," says one Armco ad. "We believe it's possible

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Michael Thomas presents....

MANDING-GO'S

A Store for Body and Soul
Rated "G"

Starring: *L.P. Record *8. T. Tape

*L.P. Record Jr. (45's)

*B. L. (black light) Poster

*A. K. (all kinds) Jewelry

*M. F. (male/female) Fashion

V. K. (various kinds) Pipes &
Paraphernalia

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4-9 pm weekdays...12-6 pm weekends

AN EXPERIENCE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO PASS UP

Capitalism's Biggest Sale, cont.

to have a world we can live in and work in! If that's the way you feel, go ahead and tell somebody. A Senator, for example."

Similarly, the American Electric Power Company, Inc., has the best of motives in wanting to increase production. Everyone will benefit, and it is the only way "if the millions coming into our world are to have an even chance at a decent way of life and if the needs of America's poor are to be met."

Only an out-and-out scoundrel could interpret that humanitarian plea to mean that American Electric Power would also want to increase its production of napalm--which it took over from Dow in November 1969--and every poor family should have a canister of napalm anyway.

Maybe it's only a case of letting their carefully nurtured ambition carry them away a bit, but some of the big boys are also trying to sell you some very specific programs. Bethlehem Steel, for instance, has a series of ads that promote a tax reform program that includes a five-year capital recovery system, a 12 per cent permanent investment tax credit, the write-off of the costs of pollution control facilities in the year they're incurred, and the elimination of double taxation of corporate profits paid out as dividends.

U.S. Steel's "What makes America work?" series has a strikingly similar tax reform proposal that also includes a provision for a reduction of government spending. The latter is argued by a "prominent" American named Walter B. Wriston (chairman, Citicorp), whom U.S. Steel asked to speak out.

"No mention is made in the Constitution of using the taxing authority to enable one part of society to tell another what to do through complex subsidies, exemptions, loopholes, deductions, tax carry-backs, and other exotic devices," says His Prominence, Mr. Wriston.

You don't like to be ordered around any more than Wriston, do you? Of course not, so it must not be true that the people who wrote the Constitution meant for Congress to deal with anything which was not specifically mentioned.

No Contradiction?

And it can't be a contradiction when another of U.S. Steel's prominent Americans, George J. Kneeland, argues that government ought to "supplement efforts of private industry in this search (for natural resources) by providing funds for research, exploration and development, and through other incentives."

Kneeland, who as chairman of St. Regis Paper is eminently qualified to propose a national resources policy, warns that "we must not focus on just a piece of the (environmental) problem, the nation's ecological well-being, while ignoring its economic health." No, you wouldn't do that because you know all "needs" must be given equal treatment, especially St. Regis' need to harvest timber.

In yet one more U.S. Steel ad, prominent conservative economist Paul McCracken aims to protect you from the temptation of wage-and-price controls by asserting that such controls "create vast new pressures toward moral degradation." Yes--as you must have known--black markets, the inevitable result of all wage-and-price controls, have a monopoly on under-the-counter payoffs.

But you would surely award first prize for brazenness to U.S. Steel for its ad featuring AFL-CIO president George Meany praising collective bargaining. Meany apparently believes in letting

bygones be bygones, because U.S. Steel was the corporation which crushed the great steel strike of 1919 by labeling the strikers communists and by insinuating that the "U.S." in its corporate name meant that the company was part of the U.S. government and, therefore, that the unpatriotic strikers were breaking the law.

Surely, you feel the same way. And, just as surely, you wouldn't want to cast aspersions on Mr. Meany's character just because U.S. Steel is now praising a labor hierarchy which agreed to "binding arbitration"--thus providing uninterrupted production of steel through July, 1980."

It wouldn't do you much good anyway because there's a simple explanation for what you, in your ignorance, took to be an instance of mutual back-scratching:

"The American people is aware that the chasm separating labor and capital is a politically perpetuated illusion," says Joseph Friedman, chairman of Chromalloy American. "The hopes and aspirations of all Americans, capital and labor alike, are fundamentally the same."

Behold the truth? Capitalists and workers have the same political interests! The corporations and the United States of America have the same humanitarian goals! All men in gray business suits are your friends!



Everything from Watergate to the recession was simply a misunderstanding. You just didn't know the truth, but fortunately the good gray men who run U.S. Steel bought \$1.2 million worth of ads in Time, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, Harper's, Atlantic and Fortune during April, May and June so that you could learn the truth.

Not that there aren't a few bad people who want to disrupt the corporate harmony. Obviously, jealous foreigners who control the sources of many raw materials would love the chance to weaken America. And there are some bad politicians at home who, as Chromalloy's chairman puts it, have tried to "take in" the American people "by divisive ploys and tactics" and who have thought "they can only be elected and re-elected by maintaining the attitude that the free enterprise system needs to be tinkered with, over-regulated, over-controlled and over-restricted."

Fighting Back

Fortunately for you, the great men who run the corporations are fighting back.

Phillips Petroleum speaks for all corporations--spiritually only, of course--when it declares "it's time American Industry took a stand for Free Enterprise" because "it's gone past the point where an isolated business has come under attack. The system itself is in danger."

My God, have the bad politicians got the Bomb? No, but they've been too successful in misleading the great American people into ignorance.

"Underlying a lot of the American people's resentment of business and the free enterprise system is simple

ignorance of the system," proclaims a Phillips Petroleum ad in an eerie echo of Bethlehem Steel and U.S. Steel--but they use different ad agencies so the ad campaigns couldn't be coordinated.

Since it's clearly not going to be the misguided politicians who will correctly re-inform the American people, it's got to be the businessmen. Businessmen who, thank God, have the perfect free enterprise solution.

Bribes? What a terrible, slanderous suggestion! Of course it's not bribes.

It's television commercials! And no mere mortal television commercials either. It's Phillips' own "pre-tested" commercials which have met "certain performance norms in positively influencing viewer attitudes toward free enterprise."

For \$160 for the first print and \$12 for each additional print, "the performance company" will provide its commercials to any business that wants to join the free enterprise crusade. Phillips will add the business' name to its commercials, but the new crusader will naturally have to buy its own broadcast time.

As you can see, this is a clear example of American ingenuity and cooperation--within the stable framework of the free enterprise system, of course. No one would

dare suggest that these advertising campaigns are merely cynical gestures designed to reduce in advance the public outcry which might result when genuine corporate objectives are achieved by other means. Just because lobbies and bribes are more cost-efficient is no reason for you to jump to conclusions.

No. Of course not. The executives of 12 of the 60 largest industrial corporations in the U.S. could scarcely be guilty of any such conniving. Those upright gray men merely want you to know the truth. For your own good. The truth.

Truths like The Continental Group's definition of a woman: "a kind of container that helps to keep (a baby) alive." You see? Packaging is important to corporations.

Truths like Allied Chemical's slogan: "profits are for people." Just because you're not one of the people who gets the profits directly isn't important. No, of course it isn't. But maybe--just maybe, you understand--the men in the gray business suits don't want you to understand the whole truth behind all their slogans. Maybe there is something more to U.S. Steel's slogan, which is beautiful in its simplicity (no, not complicity):

"We're involved."

Note: The word "men" is used in this article because of the male-dominated nature of big business.

Welfare System

As an independent ISU student (one not supported financially by parents), I decided to work instead of attending summer school. I had several reasons. First, ISU offers no scholarships or financial aid (outside of a very small amount of work study) during the summer. Also, Merchants and Professional Collection, Inc., a bill collection agency, wanted me to work this summer in order to make payments on a \$1318 medical bill.

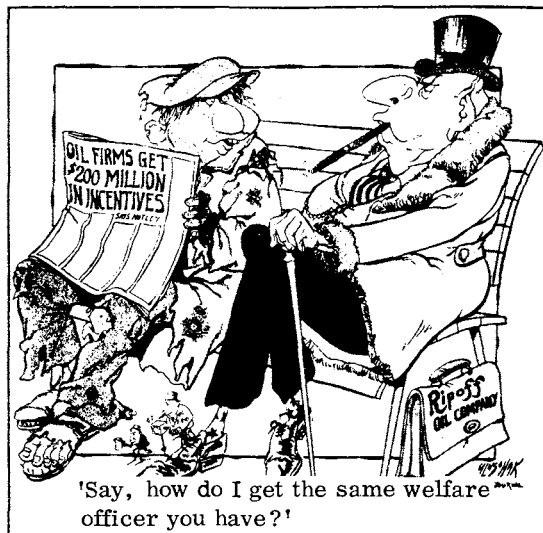
The trouble is that now I can't find employment, despite continual efforts--and I'm eligible only for food stamps, not for unemployment compensation or general assistance of any kind. That means I have to borrow money to pay rent. It turns out Township Relief is only available to people capable of full-time permanent employment. People unemployed at present, with no funds, who are going to school in the near future, need not apply. This is an Illinois rule, according to the Bloomington and Normal Township Relief offices.

The public aid office says I am not eligible for general assistance (state, as opposed to township, relief) unless I am blind, disabled, handicapped, or have children. None of these apply to me. Someone who is not blind, disabled, handicapped, nor with children in their custody is not eligible for any state general assistance, only food stamps. If they have very little or no income and don't receive unemployment compensation and aren't planning on becoming a student or moving in the near future (i.e., can't work full time permanently), they will have to pay rent and non-food expenses by borrowing from friends. If they don't have friends or relatives who can lend money, they might well be in trouble.

The image of people on welfare being well off doesn't size up with the reality here in Bloomington-Normal. Someone on township relief certainly can't get many frills. In fact, Township Relief won't even pay someone's regular phone bill except in unusual circumstances. The checks that welfare agencies go through now to make sure applicants look for work are thorough, if not excessive. Food stamp applications have to be made again each month, including interviews and at least one trip to the employment office. General assistance applicants must be actively seeking work, and even state general assistance does not pay more than subsistence income; a family may receive \$240

per month if it has four members.

Although unemployment in Bloomington-Normal is supposed to be relatively low, there are still significant numbers of people without work. The official seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is around five per cent, but during the summer especially, the real unemployment is probably



"Opportunity For All"?

over eight per cent. This is because students aren't counted in unemployment figures, and also because of seasonal adjustment. Also, students looking for seasonal work face a much higher rate because many employers want to hire permanent workers. Minorities face higher rates.

Achieving a genuine full employment, which would give everyone who wants to work the opportunity to have a decent job at a decent wage, would solve much of our "welfare problem." If welfare costs have gone up because of rising unemployment and inflation, we should not take it out on the unemployed by cutting welfare. We should rather support full employment (that's zero per cent) and public aid for all people without incomes, whatever their situation (single, married, student, non-student, etc.) in amounts which allow them a decent and not subsistence living.

--Dave Burdette

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One Flew Around

Dominic Suprenant's response to Alice in Navyland's feminist review of One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest evades the important issues that she raised. He fails to see that her interpretation did not deny the large, obvious meanings of Cuckoo's Nest. Like other letter writers in your last issue, Suprenant seems to assume that because the movie is about non-conformity in an oppressive society (or about "Orwellian control" or about "the human mind and how we selectively seal ourselves in from realities. . ."), Alice's feminist reactions were somehow invalid or irrelevant. But a work of literature can be "about" many things, as the varying interpretations of the letter writers indicate. Actually Alice's analysis of the male-female conflict in CN did not so much deal with the work's themes as it commented on the way in which those ideas were expressed: Alice revealed the conventional sexist nature of the author's presentation.

For centuries thousands of novels, plays, poems, movies, etc.--all of them "about" many different topics--have contained sexist assumptions and have confirmed and shaped the values of male domination in our culture. Literature of all sorts has long been one of the chief supports for the ethic of masculine privilege. Remember the Adam and Eve story? It's supposedly "about" the creation of the world; but it has also served the cause of female oppression by providing one of the leading stereotypes by which women are kept in their place--namely, the sexual temptress.

In her review Alice asked us to look behind Ken Kesey's anti-conformity theme and to see how the author participates in the age-old game of blaming women for the "fall" of men. Alice wanted us to recognize that the explicit revolutionary statement of CN involves an implicit attack on women.

But Suprenant would like to ignore this disturbing complexity and to absolve Kesey's misogyny

by praising his comfortable attack on the establishment. Suprenant prefers to focus on the revolutionary message and leave the medium unexamined. But this approach amounts to justifying the means by concentrating exclusively on the ends. No matter that Kesey indulges in some customary antifeminism, Suprenant seems to say; the important thing is that CN presents a really groovy statement on the societal destruction of human individuality.

In order to make his case, however, Suprenant must overlook Kesey's failure to provide Nurse Ratched with any kind of individual humanity. One of Alice's major contentions was that Ratched is not a character at all. Alice maintained, quite rightly, that "Big Nurse" is presented without human dimension: "We are given no key to her personality." But Suprenant does not respond to this point. He never contends with the stereotypical portrayals of women in CN but merely sidesteps by saying that Kesey is up to something else. That's what I mean when I say that Suprenant evades the issue--he never really denies the essential sexism of CN; he just refuses to discuss it.

Ratched: A Combine

Unfortunately, Suprenant's defensive avoidance entails some rather shoddy critical analysis. For one thing, he is forced to misrepresent the value of Nurse Ratched. A comment that alleges the "Nurse Ratched happened . . . to be a tangential figure of the repressive society" (emphasis added) is a clear cut attempt to get around the centrality that this female character occupies in Kesey's thematic scheme. In the novel version of CN the importance of Ratched is made clear by identifying her with the Combine, the central metaphor of oppression. "Big Nurse" is a machine-like, castrating female (a "ball-

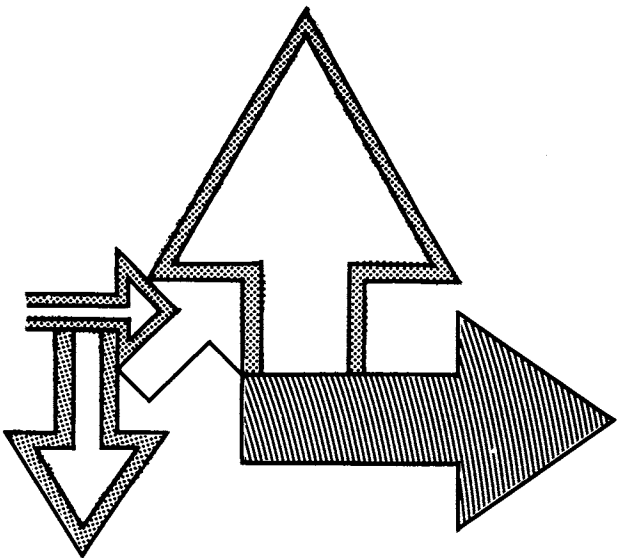
cutter," to use McMurphy's phrase). Her name, Ratched, means a toother gear wheel in a threshing machine--i.e., a combine. Now, the movie makes no mention of the Combine, but that omission just isolates and accentuates Nurse Ratched's function even more. The "system" that Suprenant would like to hold responsible for the oppression has been all but eliminated from the film. There is no one else to blame but Ratched.

Suprenant's attempt to look elsewhere for a villain will not alter the fact that Kesey has made Ratched the "heavy." She is the key to the work's fundamental pattern: she embodies the antagonistic forces which oppress and destroy the protagonist and his masculine cohorts. Diminishing the Nurse's importance may serve Suprenant's evasionist tactics; but it just doesn't deal honestly and accurately with Ken Kesey's strategies.

"Big Nurse" symbol of Women

Neither will denying Ratched's womanhood. Suprenant can insist all he wants that "Big Nurse" is not a symbol of women but an image of society in general. That will not change the fact that the Nurse is a woman. If the main oppressors in our society are males--and of course they are in our male-dominated system, as Suprenant himself argues--, then why did Kesey choose to make the central figure of oppression a female? He could have just as easily given this role to a male doctor. And there are male nurses (although I suspect that Kesey--and maybe Suprenant too--would not admit to knowing any).

In an evasion similar to playing down Ratched's symbolic femininity, Suprenant attempts to further de-emphasize the basic sexual tension of CN by giving prominence and attention to a group of male figures who simply do not possess the force and importance that Suprenant would like to discover in them. All his talk about male doctors,



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the Hornet's Nest

male administrators, male aides, and male police makes me wonder what work he's referring to. It certainly isn't the novel that Robert Forrey comments on in his article "Ken Kesey's Psychopathic Savior" in Modern Fiction Studies (Summer, 1975). Forrey doesn't flinch from seeing the sexism in CN: "Although Kesey makes an attempt to qualify (the) misogyny by suggesting that women are only representatives of the Combine, the fact is that it is women, not men, who run the Combine, just as it is women, not men, who really run the mental hospital. One Flew Over was written from the point of view that man's problems are caused by women who refuses to allow him to play the domineering role which nature intended him to play" (p. 224

As Forrey indicates, the protagonism in CN is composed entirely of males, while the antagonism is supplied by forces that are either epitomized in a single female (Ratched) or have delivered their power to her. In other words, there are no men of any consequence who oppose McMurphy. Contrary to Suprenant's wishful thinking, the head doctor is absurdly ineffectual, the aides are agents of Ratched, the police hardly exist. Most important, none of these functions as a male. By

contrast, Nurse Ratched is central to the conflict and is undeniably presented as a female. Indeed, Kesey persistently directs our attention to the amplitude of Ratched's womanly bosom. And, significantly, McMurphy's brief "conquest" of her culminates in the symbolic act of exposing her large breasts.

In addition to circumventing the sexual nature of the the conflict in CN, Suprenant does not discern how deliberately Kesey stacks the cards against his female villain. As indicated earlier, Suprenant's most serious failure to face what's going on in CN involves ignoring the almost malicious way in which the author subverts Ratched's character. At the same time that Kesey is enlarging her function as a symbol (identifying her with the Combine and placing the blame for the oppression

squarely on her breasts), he also underscores her functional status by withholding the human complexity from her characterization. Kesey sets Nurse Ratched apart by treating her entirely in the present--i.e., he fails to supply any mitigating background that might render her human. As Dr. Elizabeth McMahan has shown, the males are given past histories which extenuate their behavior and elicit sympathy for them. Not so with Nurse Ratched. We hear nothing of how she got to be the way she is: no stories of being jilted by a callous lover or dominated by a tyrannical father to account for her destructiveness; nothing comparable to the background that we get on Billy Bibbit's smothering mother or to the tales of Harding's philandering wife.



No, Nurse Ratched is almost pure symbol--a functional Presence, without any history as a human being. Kesey intentionally fails to balance his presentation of characters, choosing rather to create a depersonalized Everybitch, who stands out as a one-dimensional female in a whole microcosm of more fully characterized males. (As McMurphy puts it, "I've seen some bitches in my time, but she takes the cake.")

As McMahan points out, Kesey clearly delineates the motivation that the black aides have for serving the Combine--"in order to wreak vengeance on their white oppressors." McMahan contrasts this treatment to Kesey's handling of Ratched's motives:

The blacks are portrayed as villains because society has victimized them. They are merely retaliating.

But why is Big Nurse so eager to emasculate the men in her charge?

Why does she serve as a dedicated tool of the Combine? This is a question that Kesey never answers; he apparently never thinks to ask it.

McMahan succinctly sums up the impact of Kesey's sin of omission: "Kesey shows himself sympathetic to oppressed minorities in our society. But what about our oppressed majority?" (CEA Critic, May, 1975, p. 26.)

The answer to that last question seems clear to me: the author of CN is making women the scapegoat for the misery of others. In doing so, he is solidly within the long tradition of antifeminine literature. What does not seem clear at all is how Suprenant could have failed to notice Kesey's sexist manipulation of characters and non-characters. And after Alice exposed the sexism in CN's structure, why does he refuse to see it? I suppose that Suprenant is free to pretend that Nurse Ratched is merely "tangential" to Kesey's design and that her womanhood is incidental to the work's statement. But sooner or later he's going to be smothered by all that sand.

Robert W. Funk

COMIX REVIEW

BRIEFS:

With a whole batch of new undergrounds out or on the way, I'm forced to be brief for the next column or so. There's a lot of interesting stuff out, and I want to catch up.

WIMMEN'S COMIX # 5 and 6

WIMMEN'S is an exemplary underground, one of the most diverse titles around. An anthology comic, it spotlights cartoon and illustrative work by women artists. This is one of the most democratic titles around: no one artist dominates any one issue, and more well-known artists (Trina, Lee Marrs) are featured right alongside newcomers. You get the impression at times of reading not just a comic but a community effort, and this is a welcome change from the insular cliquishness of some of the male-produced comix institutions.

Issue five is called the "International Issue," presumably because some of the unfamiliar names come from across the water. Highlights include a sensitive biography of Julia Pastrana, the "Ugliest Woman in the World," by Trina; a secretary's revolt story by Peti Buchel; a weight watchers comic story by Terry Richards; a biography of her grandmother by Sharon Kahn Rudahl; and three murky but fascinating one-pagers by Cathy Millet. There's more, and it's all good.

Issue six is a "Special Bicentennial Issue," and like the previous it mixes history and fiction, this time all revolving around our history. Dot Bucher's cartoon piece on Harriet Tubman is the only failure here for me, largely due to its unsuccessful use of dialect. (She makes the great anti-slavery figure sound like Angelfood McSpade.) Most intriguing item is Michete Brand and Mary Skrenes' biography of Victoria Woodhull, perhaps the most fascinating fraud and visionary of our history.

COCAINE COMIX


While a little too Southern California for my tastes, this book is a whole lot funnier and cheaper than the Real Thing from which it derives its title. Main character of this comic is Wildroot, a freak with a prediliction for coke and a nose large enough to clean out every show biz stash in Aspen. His adventures, charted by George DiCaprio and Rich Chidlaw, take him to decadent Hollywood parties and L.A. supermarkets. Alternately funny and hard to follow--at least for this midwestern lad. A very nice cover by Bill Stout (who should be doing more) and a well-rendered 3-page ironic art school fantasy by Brent Boates round this one out.

YIKES # 1 and 2 (25¢ for two copies from George Erling, 357 N. P. Turnpike, Pompton Plains, N.J. 07444)

Some of George Erling's characters look so wrecked

it's a wonder they make it from panel to panel; others bound with the antic wide-eyed energy of early comic art (and early R. Crumb.) Erling is an artist to watch: he intuitively, it seems, is able to merge contemporary subjects with an enjoyably anachronistic drawing style. That mesh is something more established artists (Bobby "Dirty Duck" London for one) still have trouble with; Erling makes it seem a breeze. YIKES is a four page book put out by Erling himself, filled with little cartoons and drawings. Even when his punchlines are lame--as occasionally they are--his drawings are so darn good you don't mind. You'll be seeing more from this guy.


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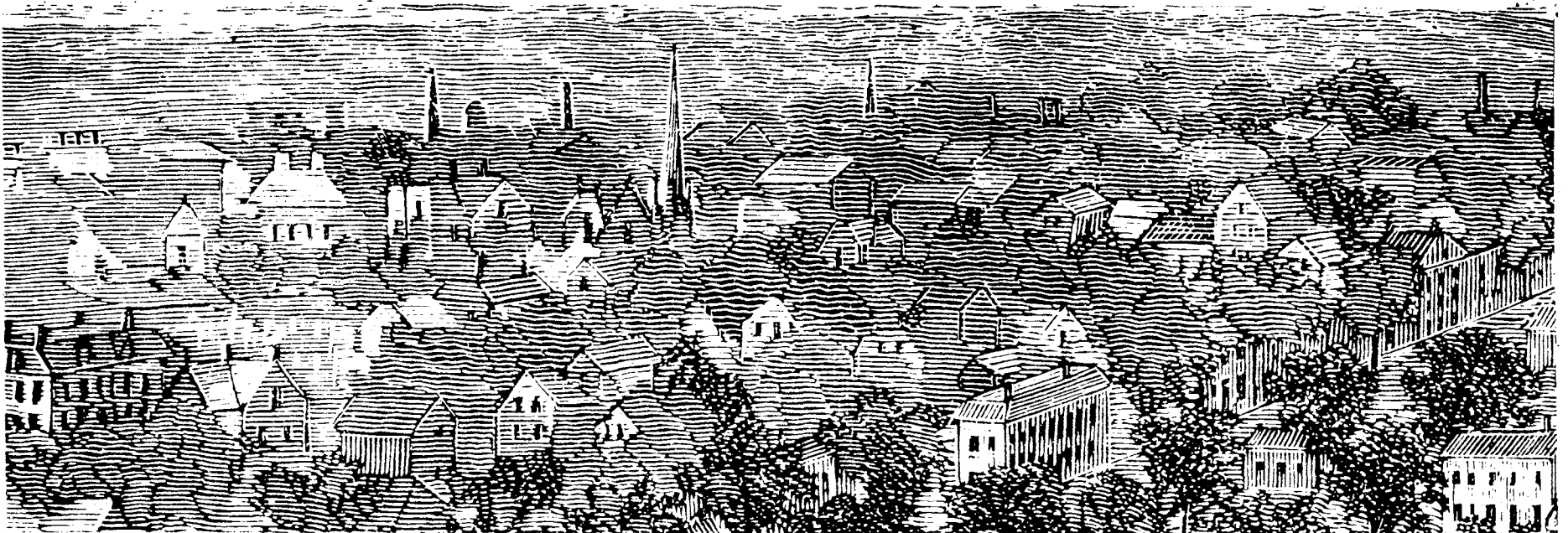
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Thai Women Take Over Factory

Bangkok--Five hundred women workers in Thailand have rebelled against repressive working conditions and taken over management of two clothing factories.

"We have been thrown into this desperate situation by the delaying tactics of the owner. We have been struggling three months during which time we haven't received our wages. Faced with having no money for food, we decided to start our own production of clothes and sell them for cheaper prices," said Ms. Leng Sae Iab, a representative of the women workers of the Hara Clothing factory.

In the view of many people who have visited the factories, both production and marketing operations are run more efficiently by the enthusiastic workers since they have taken control of their own working conditions.

Three months ago, the workers struck for fair wages and better working conditions, but no satisfactory agreement with the owner could be reached. Since all of the women workers have family responsibilities, they could not afford to remain on strike and receive no wages.

Thus, the women decided to start producing and selling clothes themselves, keeping the profits for their wages. They also decided to change the name of the factory.

At the celebration of the opening of the factory under the new name, Samakkee Gammagorn (United Labor

Factory,) more than a thousand supporters from different movement groups, including students and workers, came to show their solidarity with the women. There was plenty of dancing and singing, as is the common practice of striking Thai workers.

"When the workers dance, the capitalists lose," is now a common saying in Thailand.



One of the first decisions made on the opening of the United Labor Factory was to share their first products with the peasants who were experiencing exceptionally cold weather in the north and northeastern parts of Thailand. After this need was taken care of, clothes were sold to the general public.

Prices were lowered significantly. Previously, one pair of pants cost 190 Baht (\$9.50); now it costs only 50 Baht (\$2.50).

When the workers calculated production costs in relation to profits on blue jeans, shirts, T-shirts, and jackets, the figures clearly revealed the unscrupulous profits owners were making at the workers' and consumers' expense.

The owner of the factory, Limleng Saeung, a Taiwanese, also owns a clothing store and another big factory at Omyai, Nakorn Pathom--about 60 kilometers south of Bangkok. It was at the Omyai plant that the workers first struck.

For unexplained reasons, the owner had cut off electricity for two days and refused to pay the workers for the period of forced idleness.

The strike soon spread to the Bangkok factory where the owner threatened to close down several departments and transfer the workers to the Omyai factory. At Omyai, workers were paid on a daily wage basis (about 50¢ for 8-10 hours) which was less than what the majority of the Bangkok workers get on a piece-rate basis (about \$1.00 a day on an average production of forty pieces.)

"But," Ms. Leng Sae Iab explained, "even when we made more than our quota of, say, 40 pieces, we would not be given any extra pay. When seven of our representatives went to the management and demanded a fair wage system, they were all fired the next day."

Hence, she concluded, they had no choice but to take control of their own working conditions.

How long will this experiment last? The Bangkok Metropolitan Police are now poised to intervene in favor of the owner because in their "considered opinion," for the workers "to bring clothes from the factory to sell at the market is, no doubt, stealing."

Yet the spirit of the Thai women workers is indomitable. They might yet lose against fascist forces in the short run, but their small victory has already become significant because other Thai workers now regard it as a model for their own future actions.

--Cam Pesino

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20,000 Rally for Economic Democracy

July 4, 1976, Washington, D.C.: 20,000 rally for economic democracy and declare their independence from big business, the new Tories of the 1970's.

In front of the capitol building on July 4, the People's Bicentennial Commission staged an all day rally featuring over twenty speakers and seven musicians and musical groups. Including Tom Hayden, Barry Commoner, Jane Fonda, Ed Sadlowski (insurgent rank-and-file steelworker leader), Delores Huerta (United Farm Workers), Nicholas Johnson (former FCC commissioner), and Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul, and Mary--along with other good folk and bluegrass music, the rally's theme was that of recognizing our country's revolutionary fathers and mothers and vowing to carry on their work.

Benjamin Rush said in 1787, "The American War is over; but this far from the case with the American Revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of the great drama is closed."

The American revolution, while failing to end slavery or achieve "equality for all," had strong

populist overtones and this was reflected in the statements of our founding fathers and mothers. Noah Webster, 1787, said, "A general and tolerably equal distribution of landed property is the whole basis of national freedom."

Others echoed the sentiment. North Carolina Declaration of Rights, 1776: "Perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free state and ought not be allowed." The state law passed in Connecticut in 1776 said, "The rapid and exorbitant rise upon the necessities and conveniences of life. . . is chiefly occasioned by the monopolizers, that great pest of society, who prefer their own private gain to the interest and safety of their country."

America's revolutionaries didn't intend the American revolution to end in 1776, and many continued to fight the privilege of aristocracy and wealth many years after that. America's struggle for equality was carried on by the labor movement, the populist movement of the farmers, the abolitionist movement, the suffragist and women's rights movement, the anti-war movement, and movements for minority rights.

It was Eugene Debs who said, "As long as there is a lower class, I am of it." The revolution continues today as a fight by common people against privilege and the power of today's tory monopolies: Cargill grain, ITT, and General Motors. And unlike the fireworks on July 4, this revolution will continue.

In Philadelphia, July 4, the July 4 Coalition, containing many organizations of great diversity, demonstrated for jobs, a decent income, a bicentennial without colonies (independence for Puerto Rico), and other things, with a 40,000 strong march. In many ways, their goals were similar to those of the People's Bicentennial Commission: economic justice and support for freedom and self-determination for the world's peoples.



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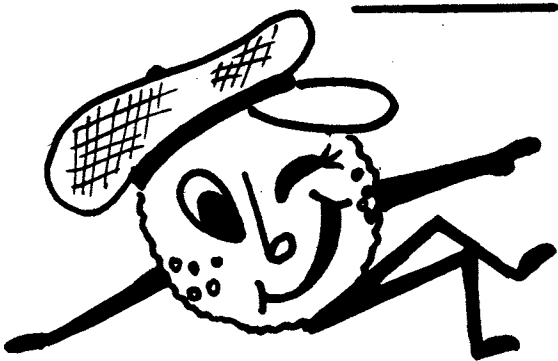
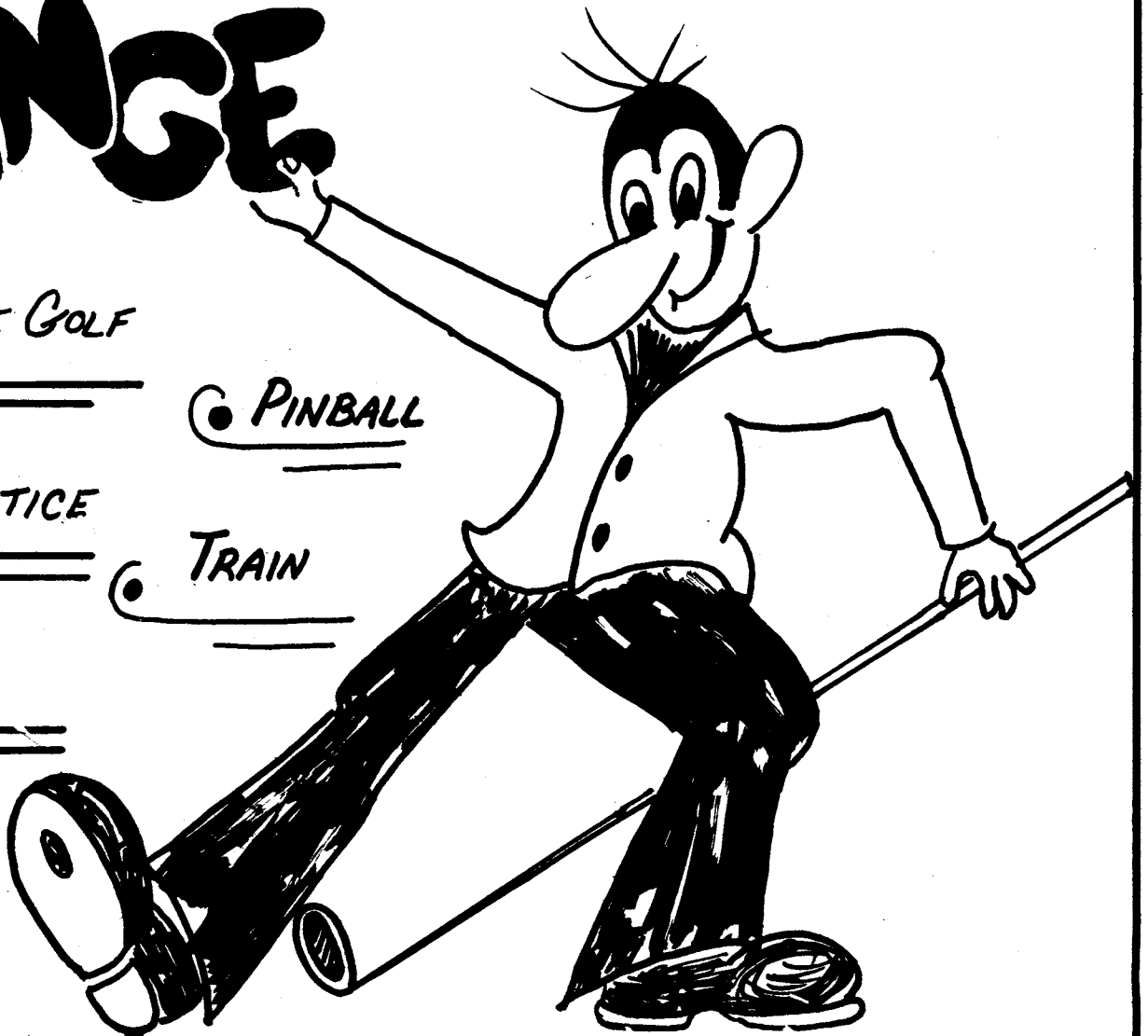
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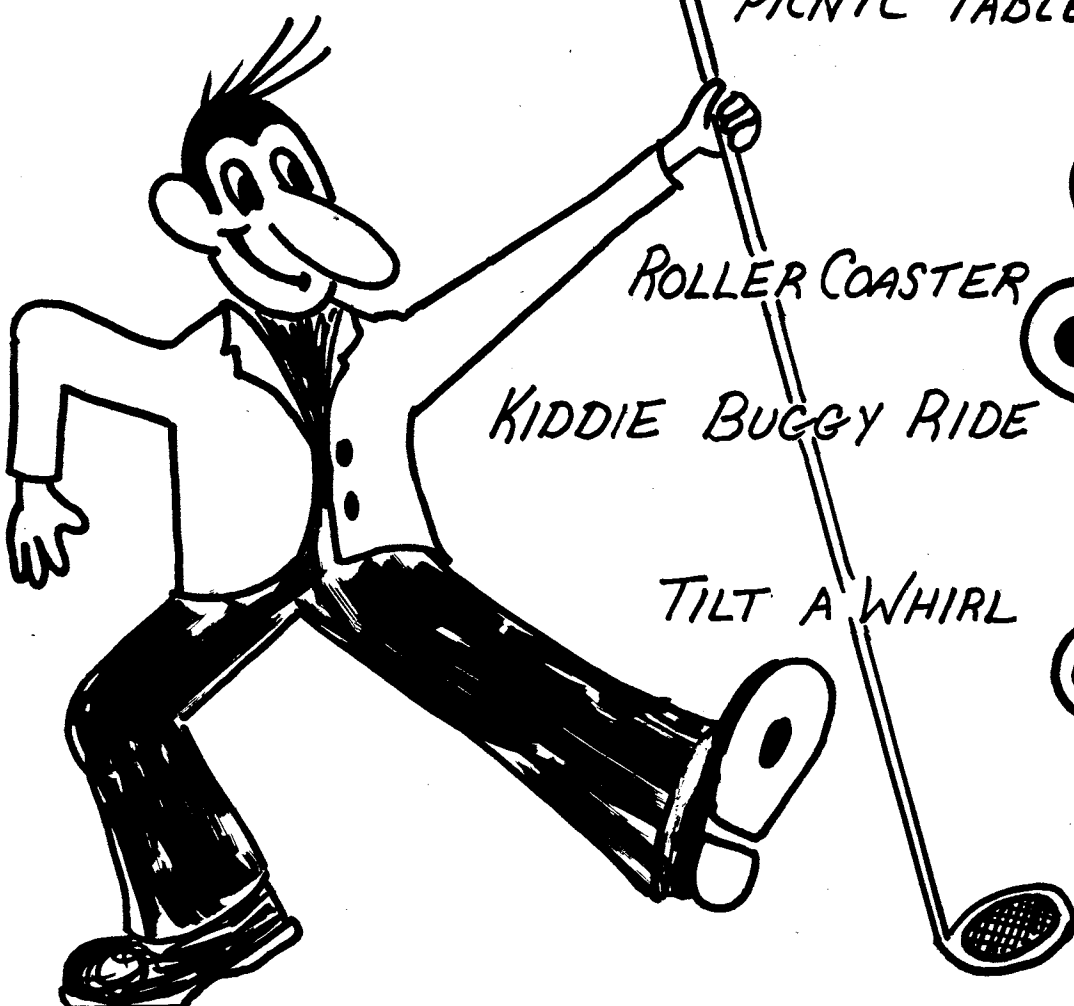
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